OMEGA

By Nev Fountain

CAST

THE DOCTOR Peter Davison
OMEGA Ian Collier
PROFESSOR ERTIKUS Patrick Duggan
GLINDA Anita Elias
MAVEN Faith Kent
DALAND Hugo Myatt
SENTIA Caroline Munro
ZAGREUS Jim Sangster
TARPOV Conrad Westmaas

PART ONE

SCENE 1: TARDIS INTERIOR (COULD BE DISGUISED?)

MAVEN (*Though it is MAVEN speaking, she does so in* an *assured and authoritative way, so the listeners shouldn't be certain it is the same character*) All right, if you" re interested, I" ll tell you the story, and this is only because you asked, and only because it" s you. This is the story of a very powerful and foolish Time Lord, who did a terrible thing, and of the heroic Time Lord who discovered what he did, to his great horror... With me so far? Oh, before we start, could you do something for me? Just a little thing...

SCENE 2: SOMEWHERE SEEMINGLY UNDEFINED.

Atmosphere: echoey menace. Low hum. Again, it is not clear who is speaking until later.

DALAND What is their status, Vandekyrian?
TARPOV I have confirmation. They are coming, Lord Omega.
DALAND And are they aware of what is to befall them?
TARPOV They suspect nothing.
DALAND Poor fools. They know nothing of the power of Omega yet. He assured, Vandekyrian. We shall give them a demonstration they will never forget.

They laugh, wickedly, but it eventually runs out of steam - DALAND first.

DALAND (*Abruptly actorly)* I must say that was impressive.

TARPOV (*Abruptly actorly too)* Very good.

DALAND Can we do that again? And this time, can you keep your laugh a bit shorter than me, old son? I am Omega, after all...

SCENE 3: TOUR SHUTTLE. PASSENGER SECTION.

Atmos: excited babble of voices, mostly mature women. There is a speaker broadcasting to them, with 'historic muzak' going on under. FX: chime.

SENTIA (*On speaker, sing-song)* Ladies and gentlemen, if I can bring your attention to the windows on the left of the shuttle, you can see a small cluster of stars... It" s hard to believe, but Omega himself could very well have looked out of a window, a window very much like the one you're looking out of, and looked at those very stars, or a collection of stars very like them, as he very probably thought about the historic mission that he was about to undertake...

FX: There is an assortment of 'oohs' and aahs' from the old biddies, and the occasional click of a flash camera.

SENTIA (*On speaker)* Can I politely remind passengers not to use infra-temporal flash photography. The largest star system contains the planet Ullar, and the primitive tribes there believe that the lights they keep believe are angry gods breaking off bits of their sun - and they do tend to appease their gods in a variety of ways, none of them pleasant. We will be arriving in our destination in just a few moments, where there is an extensive selection of holographic postcards available from our giftshop.
Thank you.

SCENE 4: TOUR SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

FX: Mix into cabin atmos during this bit.

SENTIA ... and they do tend to appease their gods in a variety of ways, none of them pleasant. We will be arriving in our destination in just a few moments, where there is an extensive selection of holographic postcards available from our giftshop. Thank you.
FX: Bing bong as channel goes off. Different sound as a different channel opens.
SENTIA *(Deep sigh).* This is Jolly Chronolidays shuttle one to base. Jolly Chronolidays shuttle one to base. Hello.
DALAND *(Over com)* Hello, shuttle. Receiving you, Sentia.
SENTIA We are currently ten minutes from disembarkation - please prepare your traditional welcome for the crumblies. *(She stifles a yawn).* And try and make it better than last time...
DALAND *(Over com) New* boyfriend keeping you up nights?
SENTIA Longer than you ever did...
DALAND *(Over com)* Oh, don" t be like that. You know, I can feel that spark between us, even on subspace. You know, if you hadn" t walked out on me, you could have become my little woman back on Algonal.
SENTIA Well, first of all, Daland, I didn" t walk out on you singular, I walked out on you plural.
You and that bimbo-shaped lump under the bedcovers.
DALAND *(Over com)* Oh. You noticed...
SENTIA Yes. I noticed. And secondly, I might well have become your little woman back on Algonal, if I hadn" t discovered your little woman back on Proctalis Major and the two little women back in the Vynax cluster.

SCENE 5: TOUR SHUTTLE. PASSENGER SECTION.

GLINDA ... and another place we went to was the Holy Asteroid of Merenghi...
DOCTOR *(Profoundly bored)* Really...
GLINDA Didn" t we, Maven. Went there. To the Holy Asteroid.

MAVEN Where did we go?

GLINDA *(Higher register)* I said we went to the Holy Asteroid of Merenghi, dear.

MAVEN Oh, yes! We went there.

GLINDA We didn" t enjoy it much. Too religious. Lots of steps. Luckily we found a nice little shop
that did cheese and pickle sandwiches. And the year before that we went to the Eye of Orion.

DOCTOR Oh, really?

GLINDA We didn" t enjoy that much either.

DOCTOR Oh, but the Eye of Orion is a wonderful place.

GLINDA Well, it" s obvious you haven" t been there. Just grass and trees, and it was always raining.
Didn" t it, Mave? Rain. Always.

MAVEN Did it what?

GLINDA Rain. Always.

MAVEN It did?

GLINDA Yes. And all those old castle ruins. We didn" t enjoy that. All on hills. Castles always seem
to be on hills, they" re not very accessible.

DOCTOR I think they were probably designed with that intention.

GLINDA Well, it" s very rude, especially when you" ve spent all that money getting there. Luckily we found a nice little cafe that did pastries. Here" s a photo of Maven eating one. Look.

DOCTOR (*Acidly)* Well, at least your visit to the most beautiful planet in the universe wasn" t completely wasted.

GLINDA No, you" ll find these tours are much better. You can get a flavour of real history, and I hear the Prydonian" s Pantry at the end is very nice.

FX: Chime.

SENTIA (*Over speaker)* Attention, everyone. This is an important announcement! We are now entering the (*theatrical edge of mystery in voice)* Sector of Forgotten Souls.

FX: A chorus of camp 'ooh's!' from the old biddies.

SENTIA (*Over speaker)* This is the actual area of space where Omega finished his mission: to detonate the star of Jartus and give the Time Lords unlimited energy for their time travel... Of course, in this more enlightened era it seems an awful lot of effort to travel in time. We don" t like going into history, we much prefer Jolly Chronolidays to bring history to us, don" t we?

FX: Feeble chorus of 'yes's.

SENTIA (*Over speaker)* Now, as a lot of you may know, the mission went sadly wrong. Omega" s ship was caught in the gravitational field of the black hole he created, and it was lost. Awww.

FX: Chorus of 'aww's' from crowd.

SENTIA *(Over speaker)* There are many stories and superstitions about that ship. Legend has it that it was caught between universes, and once every hundred standard years the ghost of that ship appears in this very sector of space, in order to lure unwary travellers to their doom...

FX: More 'ooh's.

GLINDA Pardon me for saying so, dear, but aren" t you a bit young to go on one of these things?

DOCTOR Well I am pushing 900, actually.

GLINDA Even so... Still on the young side. I don" t think I" ve seen you before, have I? Actually, come to think of it, I don" t remember seeing you when we boarded.

DOCTOR To tell you the truth, I" ve been keeping a low profile.

GLINDA Poor love. Bit of eggy belly? I can tell you" re not yourself just by looking at you. Don" t know what made you come on a tour like this, if you" re not used to space travel.

DOCTOR Well, actually, madam, I" m an old hand at space travel, and there is a very good reason why I came on a tour like this-

GLINDA We came for the in-flight catering and the shopping.

DOCTOR Well, I" m here because... I... I had this dream...

GLINDA Oh, yes...

DOCTOR Yes. I was on an antique sailing ship, moving silently through the waves, under a black sky. The ship" s timbers were creaking softly, like it was muttering to itself. No, I tell a lie, it was muttering to itself, as if it had already gone insane with loneliness. A hooded figure was at the wheel. He tied it fast and bent towards me to speak to me. I could smell death on its breath, not a murderous stench but a smell of hopelessness, the smell of something that had been around for far far too long. It spoke to me, with a voice like the rusty grinding of the last broken dock in the universe...

GLINDA *(Hushed, awed)* And what did it say to you?

DOCTOR *(Normal, breaking the spell)* It told me I needed a holiday.

GLINDA A holiday?

DOCTOR Of course, having dreams like that, no one has to be told twice.

MAVEN What" s he say?

GLINDA *(Louder register)* He says no one has to be told twice, dear!

MAVEN Oh, yes!

FX: CHIME.

SENTIA *(Over speaker)* Attention, everyone, if you look out of the left-hand side you can just make out the... *(the speaker starts to cut out. There is interference') ...* famed indigo moon of Kavelron, which is well known for it" s ...uty... began... anet... utiful sunsets... and the area where the... lanet... attacked by the... endahl... Id in a timeloo... Ladies... tlemen we seem to be hit by some galactic turbulence. There is no cause... alarm... Repeat... cause for alarm... *(Suddenly out of 'tour guide' mode)* Oh, my... *What*" s *that? It... can't be!*

FX: Enormous sound, like a cross between a clap of thunder and fingers down a blackboard. Terrified babble of oldies.

SENTIA (*Over speaker. Panic-stricken)* Please do not panic... I" m sure it" ... ust a localised disturb...

GLINDA I hope we don" t get hit by an asteroid... Not before we get to the-souvenir shop.

DOCTOR It" s not an asteroid, it" s a ship... *(Off mic)* Excuse me, ladies... Thanks for the chat. It" s been... interesting.

SCENE 6: TOUR SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

FX: Bleeps as if electronic game is in progress. In the background we can just hear a female's voice interspersed with static -just like the speaker in the visitors' area... Bleep - minor alarm.

SENTIA Someone" s left their seat. 6E" s empty... I" d better check.

DALAND *(Over speaker)* Probably just an old dear answering yet another call of nature. I tell you, the amount of times they go - we could take out the shuttle engines and use hydroelectric power.

FX: Door opens.

DOCTOR *(Off mic)* Ah, there you are...

SENTIA Excuse me, this is a restricted area, you can" t - Doctor?

DOCTOR *(On mic)* Now I don" t want you to panic, but there" s a dimensional anomaly on your doorstep, and if we don" t get it stabilised this whole place could end up a restricted area. But, by lucky chance, I know what this anomaly is, and you" re going to be terribly excited.

SENTIA I should explain, Doctor...

DOCTOR *Jane's Book of Gallifreyan Vessels,* chapter three, Omegan sunskippers. It" s Omega" s very own ship, the *Eurydice...* Turning up right on cue. Don" t worry. This kind of thing happens to me all the time. *(Beat)* You don" t seem very thrilled.

DALAND *(Over speaker)* Who" s there with you, Sentia?
Who" s that?

DOCTOR Wait - I can hear voices...

DALAND (*Over speaker)* That" s me!

DOCTOR Shhh! Other voices!

SENTIA Oh, you mean these, Doctor?

FX: SENTIA turns up the volume and we can hear the noise. It is SENTIA'S voice, saying the same things as relayed in the passenger section, still being broken up by static.

DOCTOR That" s a recording of you! I don" t understand...

SENTIA All will become clear, Doctor. I" ve just got to make an announcement to our passengers. If you" d like to accompany me...?

SCENE 7: TOUR SHUTTLE PASSENGER SECTION.

SENTIA *(On handheld microphone)* Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you were not alarmed by the arrival of the ship on our starboard bow. It is in fact our interactive Heritage Centre fashioned like the *Eurydice,* Omega" s very own ship, appearing before us out of nowhere, in the same way as it probably would have done to all those other space travellers in the past. You can hear recordings of some of the more coherent witnesses inside the centre.

FX: Various put-out murmurings. A few half-hearted 'ooh's. FX: Docking clang. A chime. Scuffle, mutterings as oldies leave their seats and shuffle out of the area.

SENTIA So, the automatic docking procedure seems to have finished. If you would like to make your way to the exit, your tour is about to begin. *(Beat)* Those in row C, the quicker you step over Mrs Ganymede and give her plenty of space, the sooner the medibot will be able to revive her.

DOCTOR I seem to have been hoodwinked.

SENTIA It" s just a refurbished space-station with invisibility shields, Doctor...

DOCTOR Pooled by a clever copy. How embarrassing.

SENTIA It happens to us all sometimes. Shall we join the others?

FX: They start walking. Footsteps on metal, which continue over conversation.

SCENE 8: AIRLOCK CORRIDOR - INTO HERITAGE CENTRE.

DOCTOR It" s a very convincing recreation.

SENTIA Not just a *recreation* of Omega" s ship. You see that piece of shrapnel behind that glass?

DOCTOR Yes?

SENTIA That is a piece of the actual hull of a ship that could have been around at about the very
same time as the *Eurydice.*

DOCTOR Really!

SENTIA As you can see we have spared no effort in giving our customers a true flavour of the legend of Omega.

DOCTOR Yes, well. *(Cough. Sarcastic, but humouring)* You can" t get more authentic than a piece from the actual hull of a ship that could well have been around at the same time as the *Eurydlce...* It" s odd, though... I couldn" t help but notice there are at least three passengers from races with time travel capability. I also noticed in your commentary that you said time travel was „too much effort'...?

SENTIA Oh, well, Past Perusals, the last company to offer time tours went bankrupt years ago.

The novelty of seeing history first-hand actually wears off pretty quickly.

DOCTOR Does it really?

SENTIA The past isn" t all it" s cracked up to be. You can" t touch anything, it" s very dirty, frequently boring, and in almost all cases there" s no proper toilet facilities. Our company doesn" t bother with all that. In a survey conducted by *Hyperspace Holidays* magazine, 85 per cent of people questioned say they preferred our version of history to the real thing.

DOCTOR Well, I can see their point of view, but surely it" s better -

DALAND (*Off mic. Booming declamatory)* Hold! Go further at your peril! Be warned, if you enter here you will be in some danger, for in this place begins a perilous feat of stellar engineering!

FX: Footsteps have stopped.

DOCTOR Oh, *dear...*

SENTIA Sssh! (*Her voice is raised - she is talking to DALAND as well as the assembled party - her manner is staged and heavily pre- scripted)* Now, who could this be? No. It can" t be, can it?

DALAND (*Booming)* I am Omega, the first to conquer the great Vortex. I will be the shining star by which my brother Time Lords will navigate. I am destined to be the first Lord of Time! Welcome to my stout ship, the *Eurydice.* Join me, as I journey into the void, and I unlock the mysteries of the universe...

TARPOV Lord Omega! I bring news from the sunskippers. They say conditions are most fair for our endeavour.

SENTIA And who is this, Lord Omega?

DALAND Why it is my colleague and assistant, Vandekyrian, a fellow temporal scientist who hath helped me in my experiments. Tell me, does all go well with the stellar manipulator?

TARPOV Very well, my Lord, right well.

DALAND Good, well. You are a loyal and true friend, Vandekyrian, it is good that you are with me on this day.

TARPOV (*Whispered aside)* Little is Omega aware, my loyalty is to another. I have spoken to my Lord Rassilon, who now sits atop his Kasterboran throne. He is most concerned that Omega" s hearts beat in time to those of the people of Gallifrey. He thinks, „Mayhap Lord Omega he hast the ear of the Shabogans." **DALAND** Come, Vandekyrian, stand with me at the portal, let us look upon our future realm. **TARPOV** (*Aside)* Future realm, indeed. My master fears for his own realm, he thinks that once his triumph is complete my Lord Rassilon will fall from favour.

SENTIA (*Raised voice)* There is a common consensus amongst historians that Rassilon indeed conspired to get rid of Omega, who was as loved on Gallifrey as a hero, as Rassilon was hated as a politician. To coin a phrase made famous by Professor Markil Shezion in his book *Omega - The Prodigal*

Sun...

TARPOV (*Losing the mannered acting)* Not so, my lady, Rassilon was an innocent party in this. He was not privy to my machinations.

SENTIA (*Thrown)* Brm... Riiiight-

TARPOV In truth it was my plan, and mine alone... I had to act to prevent a heinous act that would bring shame on the Time Lords, and make Rassilon" s face blush as dark as his Prydonian collar.

SENTIA (*Getting annoyed)* But surely, *Vandekyrian,* Rassilon conspired against Omega.

TARPOV Not so. I cannot stand by and let Lord Omega commit his terrible crime, the blood on his hands would be on mine and every Time Lord. Do you hear me, Omega!

DALAND *(Thrown)* Um... Yes?

TARPOV I am Vandekyrian! I am the conscience of the universe and I tell you to desist from this dark and shadowy path! Your black deeds will shroud us all!

DALAND Oh, will they? *(Cough. Trying to think off the cuff)* Peace, Vandekyrian, my friend, mayhap you are wrong about me. I wouldn" t get into such a tizz if I were you.

SENTIA Well, that" s enough from Vandekyrian. *(With heavy emphasis)* Omega...? Don" t you... er- **DALAND** Oh, yes. Oh! Does anyone have anything that they want to ask of the great Lord Omega and his assistant Vandyk-

SENTIA Ahem...

DALAND Oh, right. Good idea. Just *me.* Anyone, got anything they want to ask Omega. *(Pause)* Anyone...? Anyone at all? Yes!

GLINDA *(Off mic)* Didn" t you play the randy priest in *Hearts in Orbit* on Channel thirty thousand and eight?

SCENE 9: LATER ON THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

TARPOV *(Bring up, off mic. Anguished)* Like this vessel marked with my sabotage, I am a vessel marked with guilt, Lord Omega. See I have cut off mine own hand that I raised against you, and I place it before you as a symbol of remorse.

DALAND *(Off mic)* Your treachery spans more than a single palm, Vandekyrian. Your other hand also took a hand in your sabotage, and so I relieve that of you also.

FX: Gasp of oldies.

GLINDA *(Very off mic)* Now *that* wasn" t very nice...

DALAND *(Off mic)* And those black hearts of yours did put you at Rassilon" s side and against me,
so I pierce it with my sword.

TARPOV *(Off mid)* My lord! I die! *(Choke)* I am dead!

DALAND *(Off mic)* Vandekyrian, you were my loyal and trusted friend, once. I will place your hand in the stellar manipulator, so at least In death you will have a hand in our great endeavour.

FX: Launch. Simulated explosion.

DALAND *(Off mic)* See on the screen. The stellar manipulator has worked, the sun is no more, and already the black sun greedily feeds on my proud vessel, crippled by the black heart of Rassilon. So, Rassilon, you feared Omega" s fame, and showed me a danger which I had left unheeded. So different and yet so alike. We have both engineered the destruction of a star, and both of us... succeeded.

FX: Tinny fanfare. Ripple of applause.

SENTIA (*Off mid)* Thank you, everyone, I hope you enjoyed it... If you" d just like to follow the hologram of Zagreus, he" ll guide you around the rest of the centre...

ZAGREUS (*Broad Scouse)* All right, all right, everybody, I" m Zagreus, me, and I can tell you a great tale or two about them smart Time Lord guys, you just follow me, eh. Come on, come on, hurry along now...

SENTIA *(On mic over ZAGREUS)* So what did you think of our presentation, Doctor. it? Powerful, wasn" t

DOCTOR Powerful... could be a word for it. Not too clear on this „heinous crime" stuff.

SENTIA Ah... That wasn" t actually part of the presentation.

DOCTOR Oh, what a shame. I thought for a moment there you were confirming the legends about Omega" s cruelty.

SENTIA I" m sure these stories aren" t true. Omega was a hero. And heroes don" t let things like that happen.

DOCTOR Nicely put. You have a refreshingly uncluttered view towards history, as I" m already painfully aware. Hmmm...

SENTIA (*Icy)* Yes, well, thank you for your input, Doctor. I thought you of all people might understand. If you wish to know more about Omega, there is a book section in the souvenir shop. There is also a visitors" book in the reception area. *(Away from mic)* Do remember to leave your comments before you leave...

SCENE 10: HERITAGE BOOKSHOP.

FX: Alarm sounding.

ROBOT Attention! Attention! You have violated regulations for this section! Security protocols have now been engaged!

FX: Alarm off.

DOCTOR Oh, no... Look, for the last time, leave me in peace!

ROBOT My scanners observed you picking up the edition of *Omega - The Prodigal Sun* by Professor Markil Shezion, net price 14 drognas, 99 screebos.

DOCTOR I know I have. So what exactly?

ROBOT You have been examining it for 2.36 minutes. Logic circuits dictate you wish to buy the book.

DOCTOR I happen to be browsing!

ROBOT „Browsing" - that word is not in my database.

DOCTOR Why did I know you were going to say that...? All right, fine, I" m buying the book. You do take Alpha Centauri express, I take it?

ROBOT That will do nicely, sir.

FX: Electronic till sound.

DOCTOR You, my metal friend, are an electronic mugging machine.

ROBOT Would you like to consider other related titles, sir?

DOCTOR No, I think „electronic mugging machine" will quite suffice.

ERTIKUS *(A sort of softer version of Dr. David Starkey)* Excuse me, have you just bought that book? Because if you have, waste of money. It" s balderdash.

DOCTOR Is it?

ERTIKUS Oh, yes. Balderdash from start to finish. Pure guesswork on every page. That" s the problem with old Shezion: he finds a free gift in his breakfast cereal, he thinks it" s evidence that Omega was a raging nymphomaniac with cannibalistic tendencies and a morbid fear of the colour green. As you can guess, sir, from my professional envy, I" m another broadcaster and historian.

DOCTOR Broadcaster and historian. In that order?

ERTIKUS I" m afraid so, these days. „Stuff the facts, Ertikus," the telly boys say. „History is the new soap opera, so we want the legends, and the more lurid your take on the legends, the better." **DOCTOR** Well... legends do have a grain of truth in them...

ERTIKUS Grains of truth are like grains of sand. Make anything out of them, the tide comes and washes them all away. And they get in your socks and make your feet itch, too. Facts, sir. The most basic facts tell me something about an individual. A name, for example. Take my name, Professor Vidor Ertikus. Profession, genealogy, identity. Couldn" t be simpler. It" s all there, isn" t it? Mr, er...

DOCTOR Doctor. Just Doctor.

ERTIKUS Well, Doctor, I see history as a lighted candle, it illuminates all before it, and burns so brightly, that even people who-

DOCTOR *(Joins in and finishes quote)* ... close their eyes to it can see the mark it makes on their eyelids.

ERTIKUS Oh, you" ve read my book?

DOCTOR No, just the blurb on the jacket. There" s a pile of them by the till. Well, more of a sculpture really. These robots have to do something to pass the time.

ERTIKUS Would you like a copy? With my compliments. Collectors item this, I haven" t signed it yet.

FX: Page turn.

DOCTOR (*Reading)* „Far from ushering the age of enlightenment, I believe there is a compelling case to make that Omega was in fact, more of a dictator than Rassilon ever was..." If I didn" t know better, this stuff sounds a lot like conjecture, Professor...

ERTIKUS Oh, yes, but completely different from old Shezion" s guesswork.

DOCTOR Oh, yes?

ERTIKUS Oh, yes. This is *my* guesswork!

DOCTOR Very exciting title. (*Reading) Omega - The Blackest Star of Them All.*

ERTIKUS (*Unenthusiastic)* Yes it is, isn" t it? Publishers wanted it. They said it would sell. Didn" t work

though. The public can" t cope with history unless it" s on the telly with lots of actors dressed in silly costumes. Philistines.

SCENE 11: ACTORS' GREEN ROOM.

DALAND Typical. I" m Omega, one of the most important figures in time travel, and what questions do I get? „Do I buy my own costumes?" „How much do I get an hour?" „Weren" t you on *Hearts in Orbit* on channel thirty thousand and eight?" The public can" t cope with history unless it" s in some dusty little book. Cretins.

TARPOV But you *were* on *Hearts in Orbit* on channel thirty thousand and eight, weren" t you? I liked that, what happened to it?

DALAND *(Airily)* I don" t like to talk about it...

TARPOV Ah. I understand.

DALAND Killed by the network. Got cancelled to make way for a twenty-six-part history

documentary because, apparently, „History is the new soap opera." I was good in it though, wasn" t I?

TARPOV Marvellous.

DALAND Bless you. I won three awards, you know. But you know, Tarpov, funnily enough, I get more professional satisfaction from doing this. That" s why I do it. It" s the thrill of having an audience. I know today was disappointing, but the crowds we get here seem to be more appreciative, more receptive to the subtleties of performance.

FX: Rattle of trolley.

SENTIA (*Onto mic)* Too blind and deaf to notice you overacting, more like.

DALAND Look at her, Tarpov, so elegant and refined. She was born to push waste trolleys around. **SENTIA** *(Straining)* Well, I" m certainly used to dealing with rubbish. *(FX: Waste disposal grinding. Then off. Going off mic)* Tarpov, I would appreciate it if you stuck to the script in future, and didn" t mess around. **TARPOV** Sorry, Sentia, I don" t know what came over me...

DALAND Don" t apologise, Tarpov. That, my dear, is what we call acting. In fact, to be more specific, a tool of the actor" s, trade called „improvisation" .

SENTIA *(Off mic)* Really...

FX: Rattle of trolley. Door closes.

DALAND Take no notice, Tarpov, you were marvellous. And I loved that idea of workshopping the characters.

TARPOV Oh, thank you, it just came to me. I thought it might be useful.

DALAND Very good. It certainly helped you get into the role. What was that you said again, about the doodah of the universe? The bit about the path?

TARPOV Oh, that! I am Vandekyrian! I am the conscience of the universe!

DALAND That" s it. Superb. And spontaneous, too.

TARPOV I charge you to desist from this dark and shadowy path!

DALAND Now that line made the hairs on my neck stand on end...

TARPOV *(Getting more worked up)* Your deeds are as dark as the heart of the black hole you created.
You will shame us all, murderous, guiltless-beast!

DALAND You" ve sold me. I don" t think you even need a prop. I don" t think you need to swing that metal bar around, you" re intimidating enough without it.

TARPOV Stop now, Omega! It is not too late!

FX: Clang of iron bar.

DALAND Tarpov! Put the damn thing down! What are you doing?

FX: More clangs.

DALAND *(Screams)* Tarpov!

TARPOV I am Vandekyrian! Conscience of the universe!

SCENE 12: ANOTHER PART OF THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

GLINDA I must say, we really enjoyed the performance, it" s so nice to see history come alive before your very eyes. Wasn" t it, Mave? Nice.

MAVEN Yes.

SENTIA I" m glad you liked it. I" ll pass your comments on to the actors. A lot of people find the story of Vandekyrian" s betrayal the most powerful.

GLINDA Oh, no, that bit was rubbish. We liked the bit when Vandekyrian chased Omega down the corridor. That was very funny.

SENTIA I" m sorry?

DALAND *(On mic. Out of breath)* Sentia! Tarpov" s gone mad, he tried to attack me.

SENTIA *(To herself)* Oh, no. Not again. *(To DALAND)* Where is he?

DALAND How should I know? I" m concentrating on going where he isn" t...

SCENE 13: ACTORS' GREEN ROOM.

TARPOV *(Sobbing and raging)* I know what you want to do, Omega. Oh, yes, I do. I know, and I know what to do. *(Away from mic)* I know how to stop you...

FX: Waste disposal is switched on.

TARPOV You won" t stop me, Omega, *I know how to stop you!!!*

SCENE 14: CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREEN ROOM.

DALAND I" m not sure I want to be here...

SENTIA He could have doubled back...

DALAND That" s why I don" t want to be here!

FX: Door opens.

SCENE 15: HERITAGE CENTRE. ACTORS' GREEN ROOM.

SENTIA Oh, my...

DALAND Tarpov!

DOCTOR *(Off mic)* When you two have finished staring, perhaps you can help me get this poor fellow out of this machine...

They strain to take the weight of TARPOV.

DOCTOR Help me get him onto the bed. Try and support his back for me, that" s it.

DALAND Where" s his hand gone?

SENTIA Where do you think?

DOCTOR Now, I need those bed sheets over there...

SENTIA What, these?

DOCTOR Yes - no, no, no, don" t cover him! Tear one into strips! I" m going to have to fashion a tourniquet. Don" t hover in front of the light, there" s a good chap...

DALAND Sorry.

FX: Tearing of sheets.

DOCTOR Thank you.

TARPOV Had to... Had to...

DOCTOR *(As he bandages TARPOV's arm)* Don" t get yourself excited, there" s a good chap. You" ve had a nasty shock to the system. *(To SENTIA)* This should staunch most of the bleeding. It" s lucky these machines generate a lot of heat. It" s already cauterised most of the wound.

SENTIA They" re very efficient. Even the old ones.

DOCTOR Yes, unfortunately...

TARPOV Had to... Had to stop him.

DOCTOR I" m sure you did. He" s raving.

DALAND He just attacked me, we were workshopping, and, well, the part just seemed to... to take him over. Started babbling all that stuff he came up with during the performance, then chased me out of the room.

DOCTOR And then he came back and did this? Extraordinary...

SENTIA Not really, Doctor. It happens every so often.

DOCTOR Does it?

SENTIA It" s this sector of space. There" s a high level of background psionic energy. It does things to people" s heads. Makes them susceptible to psychic impulses. As you can see, sometimes it sends them mad if they stay around too long.

DALAND Mind you, I" ve never seen one go violent before... They normally just dribble in the comer. **DOCTOR** But surely you" ve got some kind of shielding to stop the effects?

DALAND They" ve been talking about that - it" s a bit pricey. Can" t afford to put the tickets up, these old dears don" t have a lot of money to spare after they" ve forked out for the tinned food for Tiddles. (*Going off mic)* You do the tour, you take the risk.

DOCTOR Do you mean to say that your company risks the madness and death of innocents for... for the sake of a *cheap holiday?*

SENTIA They" re just actors, you know...

DALAND (*Off mic)* I heard that.

SENTIA That" s why there" s just a skeleton crew, lessen the risk.

TARPOV He" s going to kill them... Kill them all... Had to stop him.

DOCTOR Sh-sh-sh. It" s all right, ahm...

DALAND *(Off mic) ...* he" s called Tarpov.

DOCTOR It" s all right, Tarpov, you" ve defeated him, he" s gone.

TARPOV No...

DOCTOR (*Gently*) He" s gone, yes, he" s gone. (*To SENTIA, hushed)* Why can" t robots do the reconstructions? After all, it" s hardly high art.

DALAND Hey, I heard that too. I won three awards you know.

DOCTOR Shhh!

DALAND *(Quiet, coming back on mic)* It" s all down to Intergalactic Equity, Doctor... They" re very powerful, and they don" t like all the acting jobs going to automatons. I" m not having a robot doing pay job. I don" t think a glorified kitchen appliance is capable of doing what I do.

SENTIA Oh, I dunno, a fridge might. You can get a lot of ham in a fridge...

DOCTOR Now, I seem to recall there" s a medical robot somewhere...

SENTIA You" re right, on the shuttle. I" ll just go and get it.

DOCTOR Well there you are, Daland, it" s not Just actors who get replaced by machines. Doctors can too...

FX: Door opens.

ERTIKUS Ah, there you are, Doctor, you didn" t actually get that book signed did you - oh, dear, what" s happened? Did you cut yourself? Your lovely jacket" s covered with blood.

DALAND There" s been an accident, sir.

ERTIKUS Accident?

DOCTOR Not me. Him, I" m afraid.

ERTIKUS Oh, my goodness!

DALAND He" s had a breakdown and hurt himself. That" s all.

DOCTOR *(Under breath)* Is it all... I just wonder who else was here when it happened.

DALAND Sorry? Surely you" re not suggesting someone did this to him?

DOCTOR Oh, no. No. He did this to himself, no question about it. Whether he was in full control of his senses at the time... No, I just wondered why the other person who was here did what they did...

ERTIKUS I don" t know what you" re getting at.

DOCTOR Look at the controls of the waste disposal, they" re set well away from the machine on the other side of the room.

DALAND Of course, safety precaution. You wouldn" t want someone accidentally putting their... um... yeah...

DOCTOR Quite. When I found him, he was physically attached to the machine, and it was off. He couldn" t reach the controls, so who turned off the waste disposal?

ERTIKUS Failsafe cut-out?

DOCTOR No... *(FX: Clang as DOCTOR smacks waste disposal)* No cut-out switch, that" s why they" re obsolete. These old things were built of sturdy stuff. So, why save a man" s life, but do nothing to help him?

TARPOV Got to stop him... He will destroy... Omega will destroy... Destroy, he will destroy... Scintillans... Must stop

ERTIKUS Scintillans...? What" s he going on about? Scintillans?

DOCTOR Where is that medical robot? Come on, Ertikus, let" s go and find it, hmm? Stay here, Daland.

DALAND You must be joking!

DOCTOR It" s all right. Just keep a close eye on him for safety.

DALAND Whose? His or mine?

DOCTOR You" ll be all right. You" ve got that iron bar. Don" t you worry, at least *you've* got something up your sleeve...

FX: Door opens and closes.

DALAND *(Calling)* That" s not funny. *(To himself)* I don" t think that" s funny. *(Beat)* I need a drink.

SCENE 16: OUTSIDE GREEN ROOM.

ERTIKUS I wonder what made the poor chap do that?

DOCTOR Oh, come on, Brtikus, you" re an historian! Page 374 of your book. Footnote: reference the ancient and venerable saga of Gallifrey. „And Vandekyrian was so mortified at what he had done, that he took his hand, which he raised against Omega, and struck it off, and cast it into the void..." Tarpov is acting out a twisted version of the legend like it" s real to him.

ERTIKUS This is very alarming...

DOCTOR I agree.

ERTIKUS I have that passage on page 212. You" re quoting my own rival" s hook at me. You" ve read Shezion" s first, haven" t you?

DOCTOR Sorry.

ERTIKUS Anyway, I know all that. But what are „Scintillans" , Doctor? They don" t feature in Gallifreyan folklore as far as I know...

DOCTOR Well, there you have me. I don" t believe I" ve come across them either -

ERTIKUS I" ll tell you what. I" ve got some equipment in the shuttle" s cargo hold. It contains an impressive library of books on Time Lord history - some of them even written by that old fool Shezion. I" ll go and look up „Scintillans" if you like.

DOCTOR Good man! And I" ll go and look for Sentia and that robot doctor.

SCENE 17: TOUR SHUTTLE.

SENTIA I can" t do that to the Doctor! It" s too dangerous. What if I kill him by accident?

DOCTOR Who are you talking to? *(NB cues such as this one are 'on mic' intentionally. He is not arriving in the room, he is already there)*

SENTIA Doctor! You startled me.

DOCTOR Did you say something about killing someone by accident?

SENTIA Er, yes! Tarpov. I was just talking to myself about the medibot. It" s more used to dealing with heart failure than injuries. I hope it doesn" t kill him by accident.

DOCTOR I see. Well, I think I" d better look in on him, and see how it" s doing. First things first, though. I think I" d better introduce myself. I" m called the Doctor.

SENTIA *(.Surprised)* I know that, Doctor.

DOCTOR Which is odd that you do, because I" m not on your manifest, and you" ve been calling me Doctor ever since you met me. How do you know who I am?

SENTIA Stay where you are. I don" t want to hurt you. But you have to see Omega.

DOCTOR Ah. Now I suspected your historical re-enactments weren" t popular, but do you really have to force visitors to watch them at gunpoint?

SENTIA This is no re-enactment, Doctor.

DOCTOR I don" t care what it is. I" m too busy. I" m just popping off to look in on Tarpov, whether you like it or not, so if you really want to stop me, I guess you" re going to have to shoot me.

FX: Door open.

SENTIA Doctor!!!

SCENE 18: ACTORS' GREEN ROOM.

TARPOV No, got to... stop... him... Stop him... Scintillans... Stop...

FX: Door opens.

MEDIBOT Please leave this area, I am attending a patient who needs isolation for recuperation.

Visiting hours will be issued shortly.

TARPOV Got to stop... Stop... *Omega...*

MEDIBOT I repeat: this is for authorised personnel, medical staff and next of kin only.

OMEGA You will not stop me, Vandekyrian... Because I, Omega will kill you first...

END OF PART ONE.

PART TWO

SCENE 18: (CONT.): ACTORS' GREEN ROOM.

OMEGA You will not stop me, Vandekyrian... Because I, Omega will kill you first...

MEDIBOT My patient is convalescing. Please remove yourself from his vicinity...

TARPOV *(Choking noise)*

MEDIBOT Your strangulation of my patient is impairing his recovery. You have forced me to take

extreme measures. Disengaging Hippocratic circuits now.

FX: Multiple blaster shots.

OMEGA *(Howls in pain)*

FX: Thud - body on floor. Door opens.

MEDIBOT There has been an incident here. I have rendered this individual unconscious. Please remove him from the vicinity of my patient.

FX: Blaster shot.

MEDIBOT (*Over shot)* My patient is convalescing and is not to be diztuurrbb-d-d...

FX: More shots.

MEDIBOT (*Garbled, speeded)* Bendover, wunthurrrtabitttttake pillsandcallmeinthemomingopenwideandzzzayaaaaaahhhhhh..

FX: MEDIBOT explodes.

SCENE 19: THE SHIP IN THE DOCTOR'S DREAM.

Atmos: wind, waves, the creaking of a ship.

OMEGA *(Echoey)* Welcome, Doctor.

DOCTOR I was wondering when you" d turn up. I must say, of all the metaphors I" ve been in, this is by far the nicest. What are you meant to be, Captain Ahab? Horriblower? Pugwash?

OMEGA (*Echoey*) I am afraid I must communicate with you in this unorthodox manner. Sentia has stunned you. In my present state, I can only manifest in your subconscious mind.

DOCTOR That" s a relief. For a moment there I thought this was the afterlife. Which is silly of me, really, because this doesn" t look how one might imagine heaven, and you" re certainly not God. Though you would clearly love to believe you are.

OMEGA (*Echoey)* I summoned you to ask you for your help.

DOCTOR Summoned? Here? *You* summoned *me* here? Is that what you did? Do you know what I" ve been through? Did you see the catering on the shuttle? I mean, the next time you make a telepathic suggestion that I take a holiday, how about Brighton? And I hear parts of the Peak District are extremely nice.

OMEGA (*Echoey. Ominous)* Doctor...!

DOCTOR Definitely not Blackpool, though. Too brash for my liking.

OMEGA (*Echoey. Enraged)* Cease this endless prattling!

DOCTOR Oh, must I? But I do it so well. My ability with endless prattle is legendary. Many people have commented on my prattling. I" ve won awards for prattling. I don" t like to go to the award ceremonies, though - they" re very boring. You should hear the length of the acceptance speeches. They do tend to go on a bit, but then again, they are such good prattlers you see- *FX: A thundercrack, wind howls.*

OMEGA (*Echoey. Over* storm) You try my patience!

DOCTOR (*Shouting. Over storm. Even angrier than OMEGA)* Oh, do I? Oh, do I really*?* Well, let me tell you this, *if* you" ve quite finished with your histrionics, Omega...

FX: The storm abruptly subsides.

DOCTOR (*Murderous whisper)* Thank you so much... I will try your patience all I like, Omega, because *if* you want my help, then you" d better try to control that temper of yours!

There is a tense silence.

OMEGA (*Laughs. He relaxes, the echoey voice is gone)* My apologies. I am not used to „asking" for anything.

DOCTOR Accepted. Now what do you want, and it" d better be important. I" m not used to helping out megalomaniacs, you know.

OMEGA No longer. After our last encounter I was left a formless spirit in the ether. I was cleansed. Reborn.

DOCTOR I see... And where does your trigger-happy stewardess friend come into all this?

OMEGA Oh, Sentia... Sentia has been my rock. Her telepathic abilities shone out to me like a beacon. My consciousness reached out to hers, and she gave me focus, both literally in the form of a psionic carrier, and figuratively, in giving me the resolve to bring about my life" s fulfilment.

DOCTOR „Gave me focus?" „Resolve to bring about my life" s fulfilment?" So you" ve gone from being a power-crazed tyrant to talking like an American. I" m not sure which is better.

OMEGA I am now as my brother Time Lords knew me before, Doctor. No monster, no tyrant, just the first and greatest scientist of our people.

DOCTOR And the most modest, obviously. So what does this new, improved Omega want?

OMEGA *(Wistful)* I want to go... home, Doctor...

SCENE 20: HERITAGE CENTRE. EMBARKATION AREA.

FX: Embarkation chimes. Muttering crowd of old biddies.

SENTIA Hello, visitors. I" m very sorry to interrupt your enjoyment of the Omega Heritage Centre. It has come to our attention that you, ladies and gentlemen, are our ten thousandth tour party! In honour of this occasion, if you could make your way to the Prydonian" s Pantry, our waitrobots have been programmed to give you all free cream teas!

FX: 'Ooh's'

SENTIA Just through that door, there... There" s three flavours of jam...

FX: Excited OAP voices moving off. Heavy door sliding and clanging shut.

DALAND (*On mic, out of breath)* Sentia! Sentia!

SENTIA What is it now, Daland?

DALAND Something terrible" s happened. Something *else* terrible... I was only gone for a minute, I swear... Just to get a drink from hospitality.

SENTIA And?

DALAND You" d better come and have a look.

SCENE 21: ACTORS' GREEN ROOM.

FX: Door opens.

DALAND There. It was like this when I got back. No Tarpov, no Doctor, the medibot blasted into

tiny bits...

SENTIA What could have happened?

DALAND It" s obvious, isn" t it? Tarpov" s gone berserk, hasn" t he? He" s destroyed the robot, he" s probably killed the Doctor and stuffed him in a drawer somewhere. Look at the way all the bits of that robot are spread along the corridor. Someone got dragged out of here... Well, no one" s dragging me out of anywhere.

SENTIA You" re being paranoid...

DALAND No, dear, paranoid" s when they" re not out to get you. Tarpov thinks I" m Omega, and he" s going to come after me! I" ve always had this strange premonition that I would end my life by dying... **SENTIA** Daland! Listen. You play the part of the greatest time engineer who ever lived, a man who killed suns and put his head into the mouth of a black hole, and you" re going to run away? Do you think Omega would act like this?

DALAND You" ve been here too long, Sentia, you" re starting to sound like one of the exhibits. interactive

SENTIA So, you" re going to do what? Take the shuttle and run like a coward?

DALAND No, I" m going to take the shuttle and heroically fetch help like a hero. Why do you think I got three awards for *Hearts in Orbit?* Because, as an actor, I have the ability to draw on untapped resources. And coming back here with security is just a more literal version of exactly the same thing. It" s not just Omega who can he a hero, you know. You" re going to realise just what kind of person I really am.

SENTIA I know what kind of person you really are.

DALAND Oh, yes? And what" s that?

FX: 'Psst' of injection.

DALAND Oww, my arm! (*Drowsy*) What did you... What was you... what was... that on... my arm...?

SENTIA To answer both your questions, Daland... Just a harmless little prick...

SCENE 22: THE SAILING SHIP IN THE DOCTOR'S DREAM.

Atmos: ocean swelling, creaking of timbers.

DOCTOR You want to go home? To Gallifrey?

OMEGA No, not to Gallifrey.

DOCTOR I don" t understand...

OMEGA There is nothing for me there. I want to go back to my universe.

DOCTOR But didn" t you move heaven and earth, literally, to get here, into this one? And now you want to leave? Was it something we said?

OMEGA It is true, I am here. That is all. Just „here" . Impotent. Powerless. A shadow of what I was.

I have found this reality to be a cold unwelcoming place. I know now where I belong.

DOCTOR Well, you" re not seeing it at its best...

OMEGA Doctor, I can feel my world calling to me... Can you imagine what it" s like for me, someone who ruled his own infinite kingdom, to know of a realm where godhood can literally be achieved, and yet no matter how hard I stretch, it" s just out of reach?

To brush it with my fingers. To know that it lies out there, it is too much to bear. Will you help me, Doctor?

DOCTOR I don" t know how I can. I hope you" re not asking for a lift.
Negotiating my way into a world of anti-matter isn" t like popping down the road to buy a newspaper. I only tend to travel to other universes by accident... Come to think of it, I only tend to travel *anywhere* by accident. Even if I wanted to help, I don" t see how I can.

OMEGA You will, Doctor... you will. (*Echoey*) You will.
FX: Ocean swells, and echoes fade away to nothing.

SCENE 23: TOUR SHUTTLE. CARGO HOLD.

Atmos: echoey.

DOCTOR *(Groaning as he wakes up)*
SENTIA Are you all right, Doctor?
DOCTOR I think so... Where am I?
SENTIA In the tour shuttle" s cargo hold. You talked to Omega, Doctor? You saw him?
DOCTOR We had a lovely little chat. Asked me to break every rule of physics in the library, but
apart from that it was most convivial.

SENTIA Will you help him, Doctor? You owe it to him to try.

DOCTOR I don" t owe Omega *anything... (Pause)* Anyway as I said to him, I don" t see how I can help...

FX: Cabinet door opens creakily - this should sound very out of place in the ship environment.
ERTIKUS *(On mic)* Doctor! You down here, too? Come to take a peek?
DOCTOR „Peek" at what, Professor?
ERTIKUS You" ve not see? Oh, Doctor, just you take a look out of that window...
DOCTOR If you insist... *(Off mic)* Interesting. Now, I know it sounds like I" m making this a habit,
but I" m sure that" s...
ERTIKUS *(Awed)* Omega" s ship, the *Eurydice* herself.
DOCTOR It" s not another cleverly camouflaged museum, is it?
SENTIA No, not this time...
DOCTOR Amazing... *(Hushed)* So that" s what he meant... Do you realise how dangerous it could be?
Taking that ship through the event horizon could turn both universes inside out...
SENTIA *(Hushed)* Please, Doctor.
DOCTOR *(Pauses, then calls)* Professor! I presume you" re on your way to look at the *Eurydice.*
ERTIKUS *(Off mic)* I" ll say! I didn" t come on this tour for the scones In the Prydonian Pantry, you
know. Nice though they are...

DOCTOR Yes, well, I wondered if... I" m afraid I" m at a bit of an inconvenience, Professor, my transport is temporarily unavailable, and I wonder if I could prevail on you for a lift.

ERTIKUS (*Inside)* Can" t resist it, eh? You" re curious, I can tell. Bums like a lighted candle in the dark. Well, no-can-do, I" m afraid. Going to use my advanced equipment over there. Very secret.

DOCTOR Oh, surely, Ertikus, you haven" t got anything I haven" t seen many times before. This old wooden cabinet? It" s just a TARDIS, after ah.

FX: Pats cabinet.

ERTIKUS TARDIS?

DOCTOR Well, you are a Time Lord, aren" t you?

ERTIKUS Oh. Is it that obvious?

DOCTOR It burns like a lighted candle in the dark, Professor.

ERTIKUS What gave it away?

DOCTOR The fact you" re even contemplating going over there. The only craft that could navigate across that sector of dimensional instability unaided is a TARDIS, and the only type of being that could *survive* in the dimensional instability unaided...

ERTIKUS ...is a Time Lord. Obvious, really.

DOCTOR And it takes one to know one, too.

ERTIKUS So... you" re a Time Lord, too... Doctor...? You" re *the* Doctor! No! With emphasis on the definite article?

DOCTOR Well, as definite as I can ever be...

ERTIKUS My dear chap! I" m so sorry, I didn" t make the connection... The heroic ex-president of Gallifrey who vanquished the terrible Omega! I expect you can tell *me* a thing or two about him, eh, Doctor? Oh, can I interview you about your part in the destruction of the Omega myth?

DOCTOR My what?

ERTIKUS My dear chap, Omega was perceived as a whiter-than- white hero until you came along! It wasn" t until you tussled with him, we started to look more critically at the legend and reassess his lofty status in Time Lord folklore!

DOCTOR (*Disappointed)* Oh, was it?

ERTIKUS That" ll show Shezion! Dematerialisation in five minutes?

FX: Door slams.

SENTIA (*Whispered)* Thank you, Doctor...

DOCTOR Well, perhaps I do owe Omega something after all. While I" m there, will you keep an eye on things here?

SENTIA Of course I will, Doctor...

SCENE 24: INT. ERTIKUS'S TARDIS.

ERTIKUS Right then, if we set that there and arrange that there, then... (*FX: TARDIS door opens)* Ah, hello Doctor.

DOCTOR Professor.

ERTIKUS Now then, I" ve researched your battles with Omega in great detail. In fact, just a short time ago I went to twentieth-century earth to have a look of the scene of

your last tussle, the one when he used your bio-data to bond physically with you and create a matter imprint-

DOCTOR *(Cutting across)* I suppose this is dangerously close to real history for you, Professor. **ERTIKUS** Ah, when one gets to one" s last incarnation, the prospect of finally *discovering* history, rather than analysing, theorising and reinterpreting does hold some excitement. Do you know the Time Lord President Mundat the Third?

DOCTOR Yes, well, I know *of* him, a somewhat colourful historical figure, as I remember... **ERTIKUS** Don" t I know it. I" ve done no less than three documentaries on him. In the first one, he was a vicious tyrant, victim of a botched regeneration that made him bitter and twisted, and the murderer of the Arcalian consorts. Couple of years later, I have to do another series, because now everyone thinks he" s a noble warrior who worked his way up from the Chancellery guard, and protected the Arcalian consorts, and *they* were actually killed by his Castellan. Now, there" s talk of him being a nasty piece of work after all, and so yours truly has to go back out with the old vidibot and make another one...

DOCTOR I see, and what with Gallifreyan history being off limits to time travel, you" ll never find out for certain.

ERTIKUS But I will, Doctor. Where Omega is concerned I" ll know, and know for certain.

SCENE 25: TOUR SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

DALAND *(Calling drowsily)* Sentia... *Sentia...*

SENTIA What?

DALAND(*Sounding drunk)* Where... where am I?

SENTIA (*Off mic)* In the cockpit of the shuttle. We have things to do.

DALAND What exactly? Hey... you did... did something to me...

SENTIA I needed to... to shut you up.

DALAND Why?

SENTIA Later, Daland, later. *(Quiet)* I" m sorry...

SCENE 26: OMEGA'S SHIP, THE *EURYDICE.* **CONTROL ROOM.**

Atmos: echoey. FX: Materialisation of ERTIKUS's TARDIS. TARDIS door opens, there are two sets of footsteps. A floating robot glides with them.

ERTIKUS This is incredible. We" re actually on the *Eurydice.* The Ship of Omega himself. The vessel that pushed the Time Lord race out of mere civilization and into godhood. Are you getting this, vidibot?

VIDIBOT Yes, Professor.

ERTIKUS You know, Doctor, this is why I became an historian. Omega was my hero when I was at the Academy...

DOCTOR Yes, he was mine, too.

ERTIKUS Then you" ll appreciate all of this, too. I dreamed that one day I" d find out everything there was to know about him.

DOCTOR Did you really? I always thought it would spoil things, knowing all there was to know about him. I think it" s best to have some element of mystery about the character.

ERTIKUS Oh, no, I couldn" t disagree more. Nothing annoyed me more when fans of Omega concocted these convoluted theories to explain away discrepancies in the legends. Like the betrayal by

Rassilon for example. No one" s ever proved it was the case. I calculated the likeliest time zone when the *Eurydice* was to enter this universe, and now it" s mine to explore. I want to know exactly what happened on this ship to cause it to fall into the black hole, and if I have to crawl through every inch of it... You" ll have to excuse me, Doctor. History beckons. *Real* history. Running, vidibot...? (*Earnest and somewhat facile for the camera')* It was here, in this very place, that the greatest engineer of them all laid the foundations of Time Lord society. (*Away from the mic, into bowels of ship)* Strange to think, that an age of enlightenment was brought about by the cruel and callous figure who was notorious...

DOCTOR (*Waits until he is gone)* So, here I am. Hello? (*Declaiming)* Is there anybody there? No. Not, a creature was stirring, not a rat, a bat, or a cat, a gnu or a kangaroo, not a moose on the loose...

FX: Shimmery sound as OMEGA manifests himself.

DOCTOR ...Just a mole, who lived in a hole. I spy with my little eye, something beginning with „Omega" . Let me guess. More psionic energy, am I right?

OMEGA Well done, Doctor.

DOCTOR Enough to make a proper manifestation - as long as you stay in this sector of space, of course.

OMEGA Ironic, is it not. To give myself existence, I must return to the very place where I was

betrayed and destroyed. *(Beat)* There is another here... He is babbling into a machine, speaking half-truths and nonsense.

DOCTOR He works in television. I" m told they do that.

OMEGA He is an old fool.

DOCTOR No, he" s just an old man with a dream. He" s looking for the real Omega. I think he" d be quite annoyed to find out he" s right under his nose.

SCENE 27: ANOTHER PART OF THE SHIP.

FX: Sound of VIDIBOT.

ERTIKUS (*On mic)* The word „Time Lord" is a term worn lightly by any Gallifreyan with a capsule, but only he and a few others like him, can truly deserve to be called literally „Lords" of „Time" ... Cease recording, vidibot.

FX: VIDIBOT stops whirring. Quiet shimmering noise (under). Getting louder.

ERTIKUS Vidibot... Am I seeing things?

VIDIBOT Yes, sir.

ERTIKUS I meant, am I seeing that thing there. *(Sighs)* Never mind. That shimmering thing on the wall. Record it.

VIDIBOT Yes, sir.

FX: Whirring starts.

ERTIKUS I wonder what it is?

SCENE 28: THE *EURYDICE*. CONTROL ROOM.

DOCTOR (*Coming in as a door opens then closes)* Right, this is the *Eurydice's* bridge, so if we" re going to send you on your merry way, we" re going to need these engines... Let" s have a look... Ignition, fusion reactors, here we are... Just press this button...

FX: Click.

DOCTOR ... and answer came there none. It should have worked.

As it was trapped in a state of flux, there should be very little corrosion in the circuits. Let" s have a look...

FX: Rummages in box. Noise of flashy sonic-screwdriver-type tool. Minor explosion.

DOCTOR (*Coughing)* Ow, well look on the bright side. At least we" ve found some power. Why did I stick my face in a piece of antiquated machinery like that?

OMEGA I wonder... Could instability be the reason?

DOCTOR Well, yes, the fact I" m not completely stable could well be the reason I stick my face into antiquated machinery...

OMEGA No, Doctor, I mean, could the dimensional instability in this part of space have a dampening effect on the engines?

DOCTOR It" s possible. What do you suggest?

OMEGA We could connect the dimensional stabiliser of the Professor" s TARDIS to its own forcefield, boost it, and create what you might call a „still point" to the hurricane...

DOCTOR That" s incredibly clever. That" s exactly what I" d do...

SCENE 29: TOUR SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

DALAND (*Less groggy)* If you wanted to tie me up, Sentia, my dear, you only had to ask. (*Dirty chuckle)*

SENTIA Very soon, Daland, you" ll understand what" s going on. And your part in it.

DALAND Sorry, I don" t get you...

FX: Bleep from console. Engines.

SENTIA He" s done it. He" s done it! We" re on our way.

DALAND What?

SENTIA Look. Out there. What d" you see?

DALAND I see a ship. A very big ship.

SBNTIA Not any ship. Omega" s ship. Not a story, not a re-enactment, not make-believe. It" s real. And Omega is there on it, not an actor, not you in a silly costume. The real, genuine Omega. Isn" t it fantastic to see something real for a change? Daland?

DALAND I" ve always rather liked you, Sentia. Thought we could go places together. But right now, drugged and tied to a chair, I" m beginning to wonder if your mind hasn" t gone the same way as poor young Tarpov" s!

SCENE 30: OMEGA'S SHIP. CONTROL ROOM.

DOCTOR Now let" s see if putting the stabilisers on has encouraged the engines to go for a spin.

FX: Flicking of switches.

DOCTOR Still nothing. Hmm. I wonder...

FX: Panel is taken off console.

DOCTOR Ah! This is why. Should have thought of it before. It" s a traditional cipher-indent mechanism. The ignition sequence is on a random multi-phase pattern, and relies on some sort of symbiotic imprint, presumably the crew" s. Am I correct?

OMEGA I stand in awe of your deductive capabilities...

DOCTOR Oh, you" re just sulking because your dimensional stabiliser theory was proved wrong. Unfortunately the crew are somewhat indisposed, aren" t they? I" ll have to bypass that and rig up a switch to set them off mechanically. Shouldn" t be a problem...

FX: The DOCTOR continues to work, we hear the noises from his tools.

OMEGA Doctor... Tell me... How am I seen?

DOCTOR Sonic wrench. Where" s the sonic wrench? How are you seen? Well you" re all sort of sparkly and shimmery, like a Christmas tree. Don" t worry. It looks very nice.

OMEGA What I meant was, Doctor, how am I seen on Gallifrey? What stories do they tell of me now?

DOCTOR Oh, you know... Hero of time, founding father of the most enduring civilisation in the universe. The usual.

OMEGA You" re very kind, but I suspect the truth is somewhat different.

DOCTOR (*Not really listening)* Well, what is truth, anyway...

OMEGA Truth is important, Doctor. A story is nothing without truth. The truth is nothing without its own story.

DOCTOR Really. Where is that wrench?

OMEGA There was a statue made of me that they erected in the Great Hall of the Academy. As I watched it being fashioned I thought, As I long as that statue stands, so will my legacy." But I realised it would I crumble and erode, even on a planet that hides itself like a hermit from I the passage of time. Then I thought: if I could shape the

universe like that 5 mason shaped his ebonite, then my name and my story would live **jf** untouched untl the end of eternity...

DOCTOR Well, that" s very poetic, but most people who think they can shape the universe tend to chip off an important bit they didn" t mean to - did I ever tell you about the time I met Praxitelles? There he was, carving his Venus, chatting away nineteen to the dozen. I told him to concentrate, but did he listen?

OMEGA Is my statue still in its place?

DOCTOR Ah, no - you see there was an invasion, lot of guns and shouting, and unfortunately it got damaged. I think they were repairing it, I did see it in a workshop somewhere...

OMEGA You see... I should imagine it is forgotten... placed in a dark place and forgotten about... dusty and dilapidated...

DOCTOR Now, there you go again with your self-pity. „Why do all the nice Time Lords hate me?" Why do you think I" m helping you? It" s not often you get to work with one of your heroes.

OMEGA Why, thank you, Doctor. This is... unexpected.

DOCTOR Is it? Is it really? Can the great Omega have such a poor idea of how he is perceived by his own people? You were idolised by *every* Gallifreyan I knew. You were an inspiration, I tried to live my life by the values you set down, it" s no coincidence that we" re actually very alike, you and me.

FX: Rattle of toolbox.

DOCTOR Where did I put the zeus plugs?

OMEGA *We* are alike, Doctor?

DOCTOR Absolutely... apart from the „wanting to destroy the Time Lords in a hideous act of revenge" stuff - though I" ve had a few days like that myself. Your speeches about using the Time Lord technology to change the universe for the good, made at a time of such barbarity, it must have taken courage. It gave me the courage to question a few things myself. *(FX: Rattle in box)* Zeus plugs... There they are! We both rebelled against the orthodoxy of the society we lived in; you in the name of science, and me in the name of sticking my nose in things that don" t necessarily concern me... And as a price for that we both of course - um.

OMEGA *(Rising anger)* The price we both paid for our ambitions was exile? Is that what you were going to say, Doctor?

DOCTOR *(Wishing he hadn't started this)* Yes, yes, I was.

OMEGA I languished in the heart of a black hole for millennia. What did you have to endure?

DOCTOR Um... the Brigadier mostly.

OMEGA But the Time Lords didn" t forget you, Doctor. Oh, no, your freedom was restored to you.

Your reward for defeating Omega, the monster from another universe.

DOCTOR You" re not seen as a monster. You" re revered-

OMEGA *Was* revered, Doctor. I was in the Matrix, remember, I know that I am feared and pitied. I am just another creature to scare children. „You" d better do your cosmic

science homework, young Veldin, or while you" re sleeping, Omega will creep out of his black hole and turn you to anti-matter."

DOCTOR Omega, they" re just stories. Stories don" t matter-

OMEGA *(Sudden burst of anger)* Yes they do, Doctor! *I am* hanging onto existence by my fingernails! I am barely able to be seen! How others perceive me is all I have!

SCENE 31: ANOTHER PART OF OMEGA'S SHIP.

FX: The shimmering sound is louder, an unearthly wailing and moaning.

ERTIKUS There" s definitely something in there...
VIDIBOT Yes, sir.
ERTIKUS Some kind of creature. No, there" s more than one - dozens of them! Ye that? Gods - did you see
VIDIBOT Sir?
ERTIKUS One of them looked at me, there" s nothing there. I could see right through its eyes... I could see the bulkhead behind it. I wonder what they are...?

SCINTILLANS *(Soft, musical)* S-scintillans...

ERTIKUS Scintillans? Who are you? What are you? What have you got to do with Omega?

SCINTILLANS Omega...

ERTIKUS That" s right. Omega. What are you to Omega?

SCINTILLANS Omega... Oooommmeeegggaaa... Deeeaaattthhh... .

SCENE 32: *EURYDICE*. CONTROL ROOM.

FX: A minor explosion.

DOCTOR Whoops!
OMEGA Doctor, are you sure you know exactly what you" re doing?
DOCTOR I sincerely hope not. Not exactly, anyway. Ah. Look what I" ve found!
OMEGA Oh, yes. Wires. You had wires before.
DOCTOR Yes, but those wires were yellow. These are green!
OMEGA (*Chuckles*) Doctor! You are incorrigible! Just like Peylix!
DOCTOR Peylix?
OMEGA Yes, just someone I was... close to. Before your time. Before everybody" s time.
DOCTOR Not Peylix the Annoyingly Curious?
OMEGA Do you know a Peylix?
DOCTOR I know *of* a Peylix. He was a figure from an old Gallifreyan fable. The Time Lord who wanted to know everything about everything.

OMEGA How does the story go?

DOCTOR Well, there was this theory, in the Old Times, that the universe needed to believe in magic, that if anyone actually understood how all the science worked, if everything got demystified, then all this fantastical technology would all pack up and stop working altogether. Then one day there was a lowly time plumber called Peylix who

resolved to do just that, and to know everything about everything. Luckily for Peylix, his job was to get rid of all the quantum packets of time left over after the temporal experiments that clogged the vortex tubes. So, at the end of each day, he left work with some spare time under his robes, and used that spare time to study. So, he studied and he studied and he studied, and then he studied a bit more until finally he understood all there was to know. And then guess what...

OMEGA Everything stopped working?

DOCTOR Everything stopped working. The TARDISes, the food dispensers, even the cat-flaps. So the Time Lords brought Peylix before them and told him to leave, not just Gallifrey but the entire universe. So he did, everything started working once more, and Peylix was never seen again.

OMEGA Interesting... Shall I tell you my story about Peylix, Doctor?

DOCTOR Please do.

OMEGA Once upon a time there was a lowly time plumber called Peylix, who worked alongside the Great Omega. You may have heard of the Great Omega.

DOCTOR Slightly... I was never up on the more obscure figures in Time Lord history.

OMEGA He wanted to know everything about everything, too. Omega didn" t know how curious he was, and just how much he wanted to know everything, but Omega did find out eventually... when the Chancellery Guard came for Peylix in their laboratory, during a time experiment, and he was placed in a dispersal chamber. And guess what, Doctor?

DOCTOR Peylix was never seen again?

OMEGA Peylix was never seen again.

DOCTOR (Pause) Perhaps Sentia" s company is right. Perhaps the stories of the past are more fun than the actual history itself... That" s a very sad and tragic story.

OMEGA Yes, it is, isn" t it? Very sad and tragic. If it were true.

DOCTOR What?

OMEGA I made it up.

DOCTOR Why?

OMEGA Does it matter? He could have been a spy who fed secrets to our enemies and was dispersed, or a tyrant who threatened Gallifrey and was vaporized. He could have been a hero who died fighting vampires. Why should a story matter if it is not true?

DOCTOR I see your point.

OMEGA For Peylix and I, the stories of our deeds are all we have left.

DOCTOR So what really happened to him? You can tell me, Omega.

OMEGA (*Laughs*) Peylix the Annoyingly Curious is in good company! (*Darker*) He died, Doctor. He was killed by a man called Luvis, and I stood there, and watched, and did nothing. And from that point on I decided to interfere, and make some sort of difference to the universe, and not to stand by and watch again.

SCENE 33: ANOTHER PART OF THE *EURYDICE*.

ERTIKUS Tell me! What" s your connection to Omega? What did he do to you? Did he kill you all?

Answer me!

FX: Then suddenly the sound goes out.

ERTIKUS It" s gone quiet... Wonder why?

VIDIBOT I cannot say, Professor. I do not have analytical facilities. However, in my capacity as rostrum vidibot on numerous wildlife documentaries, I have gathered that certain creatures do go silent before they attack.

ERTIKUS (*Starts scoffing, then realisation* dawns) Well, really... I'm so glad you told me... that" s nice to... know...

FX: The noise amplifies into a screeching roar.

SCINTILLANS Oooommmeeegggaaaa!

SCENE 34: OMEGA'S SHIP. CONTROL ROOM.

DOCTOR Right, here we go... I" ve bypassed the symbiotic link by using good old-fashioned electronic impulses. Let" s see if it works.

FX: Bleep. Low throb of the engines.

OMEGA Listen to that, Doctor... What an exquisite sound... I haven" t heard that music for centuries...

DOCTOR Yes, well... Best to have it diminuendo for now, don" t want us moving to a new universe before we" re ready.

FX: Bleep, engine noise dies.

DOCTOR Well, that" s about it... There" s no fee, not even a call-out charge. You see this?

FX: Bleep of remote activator.

DOCTOR It" s a remote activator. This switch sets the engines going, this light flashes if anyone attempts to take the engines offline, and this hinge opens the access panel. Quite a neat little chap. I point the ship towards the dimensional rift, and then activate the engines from the safety of Ertikus" s TARDIS, and you can journey on your merry way.

OMEGA Don" t lose it, Doctor, you hold the future of Omega in your hand.

DOCTOR Well, in my pocket now actually. Don" t worry - I" ve never lost anything from them yet.

Unfortunately... Sometimes I wonder if I could probably do with losing the odd item.

FX: Rustle. Clatter as he empties his pockets.

DOCTOR I mean, do I really need a bag of caramelised humbugs, a rubber snake, several bits of string cut to one-inch lengths? Oh... and what seem to be several pieces of twisted and blackened metal. I wonder how they got there? Oh well, better not wonder too much about them - don" t want to end up like Peylix, eh, Omega? *(Pause)* Omega?

ERTIKUS *(To mic)* Doctor! Doctor! *(Out of breath)* Doctor, you will not believe what I" ve witnessed...

There" s something alive here with us!

DOCTOR What...?

ERTIKUS Creatures... Flying transparent wraiths... They attacked us, like screaming banshees... Chased us down miles of corridors, didn" t they, vidibot?

VIDIBOT Yes, sir.

ERTIKUS It was absolutely *marvellous...*

DOCTOR Really?

ERTIKUS Oh, yes! They called themselves Scintillans, Doctor! *Scintillans!* It clinches it! Tarpov *must*
have discovered something. They must have something to do with Omega - he must have done something terrible to them... *(Off mic)* I" m going to check my TARDIS" s database, see what is has to say about
„Scintillans" .

FX: TARDIS door opens.

OMEGA *(Urgent, hissing)* You must stop that old fool, Doctor. *Stop him!* He is an incompetent meddler. He will ruin everything!

DOCTOR Oh, you" re back. Getting a bit close to the truth, is he? The truth about these „Scintillans" , whatever they are...

OMEGA There is... nothing for him to discover...

DOCTOR I hope so, for your sake. He" s very persistent. Let" s hope he doesn" t start questioning the same things as I am. Such as all that rubbish you spouted earlier, about increased psionic energy enabling you to manifest yourself. Where" s the focus for your mind to manifest? Sentia? I find it extremely doubtful that her mind would be powerful enough to act as a focus, and give you licence to flit around this ship like Marley" s ghost.

OMEGA Nevertheless, I am here.

DOCTOR I know, and that" s what puzzles me.

ERTIKUS *(Off mic)* Doctor, is there someone out there with you?

DOCTOR Just talking to myself, Professor. First sign of madness, I know...

ERTIKUS *(Off)* Doctor, I can" t help but notice, but my dimensional stabiliser seems to be hooked
up to the forcefield.

DOCTOR Oh, just trying out a little experiment...

ERTIKUS *(Off)* Oh, fine. I" ll just disconnect it, shall I?

DOCTOR By all means...

OMEGA *(Hissing) No,* Doctor! He must not disconnect the circuit!

DOCTOR *(Calling)* Hang on a minute, Professor - could you leave it as it is for a tad longer? Got a few more tests to do.

ERTIKUS *(Off)* Righto, I" ll just be off again. They" re out there somewhere, and they know the truth.

Wish me luck!

FX: Footsteps away.

DOCTOR Now, why do you want to keep that circuit connected?

(FX: Clang) A ship" s just docked. But it can" t!

OMEGA Oh, but it can, Doctor.

FX: Chime on.

SENTIA Tour shuttle to *Eurydice.* Come in, please...

DOCTOR (*Realising)* Of course it can. Thanks to Ertikus" s dimensional stabiliser.

SENTIA Tour shuttle to *Eurydice.* Omega! Omega! Are you there?

OMEGA I am here, Sentia.

SENTIA It" s you! Thank heavens. Is... the Doctor... there with you?

DOCTOR Yes, I" m here.

SENTIA Oh. I" d hoped he" d gone.

DOCTOR Charming. Is that all the thanks I get?

SENTIA Daland is here with me... Can you open the airlock?

OMEGA Doctor? Can you do it? I" m not good with buttons these days.

DOCTOR You tricked me.

OMEGA If I had asked you to make this ship inhabitable so she could join me here... Would you have helped me?

DOCTOR If you" d asked instead of commanded I might have considered it! What about the people in the Centre! Without the shuttle they" re trapped in a dangerous sector of space!

SENTIA Don" t worry, Doctor. They" ll be safe. I guarantee it.

DOCTOR And what about Daland? How does he figure in your plans?

SENTIA Daland? He doesn" t know it yet but he" s performing the service.

DOCTOR What service?

SENTIA The wedding service, Doctor... Omega and I are to be married.

SCENE 35: TOUR SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

FX: Chime off.

DALAND *(Off mic) What* did you just say?

FX: Bleeps from console.

SENTIA (*Distracted, as she calibrates the console)* We" re getting married, Daland. Omega and I are getting married. That" s what I said. *(Pause)* Can" t believe it. Daland is finally speechless. Is it because I" m marrying a tenthousand-year-old spirit from another dimension? Or the fact I can be interested in someone other than the renowned soap star and his precious awards? Or is it just because you" ve never come across the concept of marriage before?

TARPOV It" s because I" ve hit him over the head with the handle of your gun.

SENTIA *(Shocked)* Tarpov... You" re-

TARPOV *(Still quite hysterical)* Married, eh? To Omega? Eh? What happened to just cause or impediment? Speak now and forever hold your peace. That" s what they say, isn" t it? I" d better do it then, hadn" t I?

SCENE 36: *EURYDICE.* CONTROL ROOM.

FX: Chime.

DOCTOR *(Into Intercom)* Hello, Sentia. I" ve opened the airlock. *(To OMEGA)* Well, I would never have guessed you had it in you, and at your time of life, too.

OMEGA A happy event. A sacred ceremony which echoes across almost every culture in the universe, whereby two individuals can become one, and this one also symbolises the union of my universe... and yours. Is that not a glorious concept, Doctor?

DOCTOR Yes, I suppose... Just as long as I can sit on the bride" s side.

OMEGA *(Laughs)* You are known for your compassion, Doctor. Can you not give an old Time Lord his last wish in this universe?

TARPOV Oh, no, Omega, we can" t. Because you" re evil. Sentia just doesn" t know it yet, does she?

DOCTOR *(Astonished)* That" s Tarpov...!

OMEGA Vandekyrian, you cringing worm. Come out here and face me, insect!

DOCTOR Omega... Don" t get him excited...

SENTIA Doctor - he" s got my gun...

TARPOV You think you are the only one who can destroy lives, Omega? No, you" re not the only one.

OMEGA You dare try to defy me?

TARPOV ...I can do it to you, just like you did it to them. Just you watch.

DOCTOR *Tarpov!!!*

FX: Flare gun fires over intercom, and keeps firing.

SENTIA *(Screams)*

END OF PART TWO.

SCENE 37: TOUR SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

SENTIA *(Screams are muffled)*

TARPOV Shh-shh! I" ve just destroyed the intercom. I don" t want him to hear. I just want to talk to you. Alone. I need to tell you... about the Scintillans...

SCENE 38: *EURYDICE.* CONTROL ROOM.

DOCTOR Tarpov! Listen to me! Tarpov!

FX: Sound abruptly cut off.

DOCTOR He" s destroyed the communications system.

OMEGA Doctor, if Vandekyrian defies me as he did ten thousand years past, I will scatter his body through every parsec in the twelve universes...

DOCTOR Yes, yes, well, if we get to the docking bay in good time perhaps we can prevent him scattering Sentia at all...

SCENE 39: TOUR SHUTTLE COCKPIT.

SENTIA But how do you know this?

TARPOV Because I do. I" m Vandekyrian, conscience of the universe.

SENTIA *(Humouring him)* Of course you are... Are you sure it was as you remember, Vandekyrian?

After all, it was thousands of years ago...

TARPOV There are... pictures in my head... Glowing creatures... raging in pain... You must help me... I have to stop him... I have to... I have to stop him killing them.

SENTIA But you" ve just told me they were already dead...

TARPOV Did I? I did, didn" t I? *(Realising, winded)* They" re dead... They" re all dead... I couldn" t stop him... I couldn" t stop him... I couldn" t stop him, then... I couldn" t stop him now...

SENTIA If he gets to you, he" ll stop you. He" ll destroy you. You" ve got to *go,* Tarp-Vandekyrian...

Save yourself...

TARPOV Yes...

SENTIA I" ll need the gun... won" t I? I mean, to defend myself from him...

TARPOV Yes, yes, of course... you have it... He" s coming... Omega" s coming and I can" t stop him... I can see him in my mind... I can hear his pain, his confusion, his rage beating against my head... Oh, he" s coming...

SENTIA Go!

TARPOV *(Shrieking, as he moves away from mic)*
He's coming...!

SENTIA Go!

FX: Door opens, closes. Flare gun fires. Console blows up. We hear sparking and minor electrical explosions throughout the scene. Door opens.

OMEGA *(Fury)* Where is he? Where is that suppurating maggot?

SENTIA He" s gone. Omega...

OMEGA What did Vandekyrian say to you! *What did he say?*

SENTIA Nothing! Nothing! He didn" t say anything!

Pause.

DOCTOR How very touching. I always like to see young couples greet each other. It always gets me right here... and here.

OMEGA Doctor, *be silent!!!*

DOCTOR Well, if he won" t ask you, I will. Are you all right?

SENTIA I" m fine... Is... Daland, is he...?

DOCTOR *(Off mic)* Yes... He" s fine. Had a bit of a nasty knock but he" ll recover.

SENTIA Thank goodness...

OMEGA Spare no compassion for him, Sentia. He is a prancing fool, a painted marionette dancing and twitching in my name for the delight of the gawping masses.

DOCTOR First rule of being a superstar, Omega, don" t dismiss your fans, they put you where you are today. Young Tarpov for instance seems to have put us in a broken shuttle on the edge of known space. *(FX: The DOCTOR sweeps debris from a console)* Interesting... He sabotages a ship, just as Vandekyrian did to the *Eurydice* all those years ago.

SENTIA I" m here. I" m finally here... Omega" s ship. I used to read about it when I was just a girl. All the times I imagined standing here. This is like my dreams coming come true...

OMEGA Our marriage must take place as soon as possible, my dear, and then we can voyage forth and take thrones in our realm of nothingness...

DOCTOR Omega, you know I cannot agree to that... *You* can return to your universe, that" s fine, but as far as I" m concerned it" s just a single ticket. You alone.

SENTIA You said you" d help us...

DOCTOR I said I" d help *him.* He knows *you* can" t go.

SENTIA Omega?

OMEGA I think what the Doctor is referring to is the dimensional instability which afflicts this sector of space... he knows only Time Lords can exist within its boundaries.

SENTIA But you fixed that. I" m here. Look, I" m fine.

DOCTOR Only as long as the Professor" s TARDIS and its dimensional circuit remains in place. For you to survive the journey, Ertikus will have to leave his TARDIS behind.

SENTIA Professor Ertikus is a huge fan of Omega. I" m sure if it were explained to him, he" d be- **DOCTOR** But it" s not just that. There" s not just you here, there are other lives at stake on this ship, Daland... Ertikus... what" s going to happen to us when the *Eurydice* enters the other universe? Where do we go? We can" t leave in the shuttle now, can we? So if Ertikus" s TARDIS is immobilised, and if the shuttle is finished too, we can" t leave. And to make sure you survive your honeymoon...

SENTIA *(Finishing his sentence for him)* ... you" re all going to *have to come through with us...*

DOCTOR If you want to travel to another plane of existence, Sentia, that" s fine, but if other people have to travel with you against their will, then I can" t help you, I" m sorry.

OMEGA But you will help us, Doctor... As long as Omega wills it, so will it be.

DOCTOR I think you" ll find that, as long as I have the remote activator safe in my pocket, so won" t it be.

OMEGA (*Flash of rage) Doctor!!!*

DOCTOR (*Equally forcefully) Yes!!!* Do you have something intelligent to say, or are you just going to rage and threaten like the old Omega we know and love? I thought you were concerned at how the universe remembered you? Are you going to leave it as you entered it? Kicking and screaming and swearing bloody vengeance?

OMEGA (*Reasonable again)* You" re right, Doctor. Of course. Whatever you think is for the best. We cannot hold lives hostage to my... my...

DOCTOR Vainglorious folly?

OMEGA I was thinking... quixotic vision.

DOCTOR Couldn" t have put it better myself. I suggest before we discuss this further, we check the damage to the... Oh. He seems to have gone again. That" s quite an annoying habit of his.

SENTIA You shouldn" t have angered him, Doctor. He" s a noble hero, but he doesn" t suffer fools gladly.

DOCTOR Neither do I, Sentia. Neither do I.

SENTIA *(Off mic)* I" m just going to close down the engines manually. If there" s a breach they could explode.

FX: Door opens, closes.

DOCTOR Come on, Daland, they" ve both gone. You can stop pretending to be unconscious now.

DALAND (*Off mic)* How did you know?

DOCTOR I" ve seen people unconscious before. I can tell.

DALAND Was that really-

DOCTOR Yes. The real thing. What do you make of him?

DALAND Not much, I" m afraid. After all, I had my eyes closed, keeping up the „nasty knock" bit.

(Beat) He" s completely mad isn" t he?

DOCTOR Very probably.

DALAND „Prancing fool" indeed. Me! I" ve won three awards you know. They don" t give three awards to prancing fools.

DOCTOR Come on. We have to find Tarpov.

DALAND Do we have to?

DOCTOR Yes we do. I don" t like what" s happening here. I" m being manipulated, and I don" t like it one bit. So I think we should just slip quietly away in Ertikus" s TARDIS. And we can" t leave non-Time Lords behind, because if we do-

DALAND Yes, I heard. Somehow I don" t think Sentia wants to come.

DOCTOR Yes... Well, we" ll cross that particular time bridge when we come to it. (*Off mic)* Come on.

We have to hurry.

FX: Door opens and closes.

DALAND (*Clears throat more meaningfully)* Doctor! I am still tied to this chair you know. (*Beat)* Oh, well, once he realises, he" ll be back...

SCENE 40: ENGINE ROOM OF TOUR SHUTTLE.

FX: Dull throb of engines dying down.

SENTIA Omega...

OMEGA My dearest, Sentia... I... cannot stay long...

SENTIA I did what you said...

OMEGA A temporary measure at best. I fear the Doctor will already be looking for a way off this ship... He is resourceful, Sentia. He is weakened by his conscience and feelings of obligation to me, but he is **j** not a fool. I feel him getting nearer all the time, treading softly in my footprints. It is just a matter of time before he discovers that we intend to destroy him.

SENTIA What can we do?

OMEGA We must find a way to secure the Doctor" s cooperation, of course. We must compel him to leave this universe along with us.

SENTIA But what about the others? What about Daland and Ertikus? Omega? *Omega!*

SCENE 41: *EURYDICE*.

FX: The ghostly atmos of the SCINTILLANS.

SCINTILLANS Omegggaaa... .Deatthh.

TARPOV Yes, I know, I" m sorry. I" m so sorry...

SCINTILLANS Deatttthhh...

TARPOV I" m sorry... I tried to save you, but it happened such a long time ago... I did try... *(he starts to cry).*

SCINTILLANS Ooommeeggaa...

SCENE 42: *EURYDICE.* CORRIDOR.

Atmos: echoey.

DALAND Doctor? Doctor?

DOCTOR *(Very close)* Yes?

DALAND You didn" t come back for me. I had to struggle manfully out of these ropes by myself, you know.

DOCTOR You" re here now, that" s all that matters.

DALAND Yes. No thanks to you. *(Beat - then sigh)* Big ship... !

DOCTOR Yes...

DALAND And spooky...

DOCTOR Not really. It" s just your overactive imagination conjuring up an irrational fear of the

unknown, that" s all.

DALAND Oh, good. As long as it" s my fault.

DOCTOR You know, there" s one thing I" m not clear on - Sentia said something about you conducting the marriage ceremony... I was under the impression you were an actor.

DALAND *(Sighs)* I played a priest in *Hearts in Orbit* - and the network had me ordained one season for a publicity stunt.

DOCTOR How tasteful.

DALAND It" s the industry one finds oneself working in.

DOCTOR You" re taking all this very calmly, you know.

DALAND That" s because I" ve got a special inbuilt defence against emotional trauma and extreme
situations of this kind.

DOCTOR And what" s that?

DALAND I" m very shallow.

DOCTOR Ah. *(Beat)* Omega seemed extremely interested in Tarpov, didn" t he?

DALAND I suppose.

DOCTOR Particularly about what he might have said to Sentia. I don" t suppose you were conscious
enough to hear Tarpov say anything interesting?

DALAND No, I was out like a light. First thing I remember was coming to, and hearing him screaming the odds about „He" s here! He" s coming!" and then he ran off and then- hey, wait a minute. I" ve just realised. Doctor-

DOCTOR Shhh! *(FX: Footsteps*) There" s something coming... Just around this corner.

DALAND Tarpov?

DOCTOR Who else... Get ready to grab him...

DALAND Right.

DOCTOR After three. One... Two... Thr-

GLINDA At last... We have been wandering around this great big monstrosity of a place for some
considerable time, and you" re the first member of staff we" ve met. It" s just not good enough. Is it, Mave?

MAVEN What?

GLINDA Great big monstrosity, Mave.

MAVEN Oh, yes!

DOCTOR Oh, no...

DALAND They must have been sitting in the first-class lounge, got off when we docked.

DOCTOR This is all I need...

GLINDA Where are the refreshments, dear? The service here is rubbish!

DOCTOR *(Hisses)* Leave this to me... (*Clears throat)* Well, ladies, I do believe there is an impressive
range of in-flight snacks back on the shuttle - if I could escort you?

GLINDA Now that" s more like it.

DOCTOR (*Under breath)* I" ll take them back to Sentia on the tour shuttle. You" ll be won" t you? all right here,

DALAND *(Away from mic)* Well, not really...

DOCTOR Come along, ladies...

FX:
Footsteps.

GLINDA So is this bit of the Heritage Centre meant to look like a ten thousand-year-old spaceship, is it?

DOCTOR Er... yes...

GLINDA Doesn" t look very old. Does it, Mave?

MAVEN What?

GLINDA Doesn" t look very old, Mave.

MAVEN Ooh! Thank you!

GLINDA It" s not right, is it? Look at this dust! They" ve used dust, haven" t they? Dust never looks like dust. The Historium on Stelgin IV uses treated neo-cordralite, and that looks far more like dust than dust ever does...

DOCTOR *(Wearily)* Really...

SCENE 43: *EURYDICE*. CORRIDOR.

Atmos: the SCINTILLANS are still hovering in their ghostly way.

TARPOV So sorry... I" m so sorry...

OMEGA Vandekyrian...

TARPOV Omega... You" ve come to kill me.

OMEGA Yes.

TARPOV Like all the others... Yes, that makes sense. Yes, that makes sense. Scintillans... wait for me... I" m going to join you now... Wait for me...

SCINTILLANS Omegaaaa... Death... Death...

FX: Whine of laser probe.

SCINTILLANS Death, death, death, death, death! (*Their voices scream to a crescendo)*

SCENE 44. *EURYDICE*. CORRIDOR.

DALAND (*Hissing to himself)* Doctor, where are you? You" ve been hours! Well, half an hour.

Twenty minutes, I" ll give you that.

FX: Faint thud which echoes down the corridor, followed by a clunk of metal and then a scream (it is ERTIKUS) echoes down the corridor.

DALAND Who" s there? Doctor, is that you?

ERTIKUS *(Whimpering, on mic)* Over there... on the floor...

DALAND Professor Ertikus! What" s wrong?

ERTIKUS I... think it" s that poor actor who removed his own hand...

DALAND Yes, it is... Oh, hell...

ERTIKUS It" s horrible...

DOCTOR *(On mic)* What" s going on?

DALAND It" s Tarpov! Poor boy - he was only doing this season to put himself through college. I rather hoped I" d never see him again after I that incident with the medical robot but I didn" t want this.

DOCTOR What „incident" ?

DALAND After that thing with the waste disposal machine, we left him in that room. When Sentia and I returned, we found that the medical robot was blown apart. Bits of it were all over the place, even down the corridor. It looked like someone had dragged a body out through the mess it made.

DOCTOR Really.

DALAND We thought Tarpov" d had attacked *you,* Doctor, and stuffed you somewhere. So someone actually dragged him out, you reckon?

DOCTOR No. There" s no fragments on his clothes. He wasn" t **j** dragged out of there. My guess is that someone attacked him, and the medical robot attacked the attacker...

DALAND And someone else dragged the attacker out?

ERTIKUS This is making my head hurt.

DOCTOR Ah! *(FX: Clatter as he picks something up)* Here we are. The culprit. A Finklegruber probe... A very powerful instrument, like a miniature laser lance. A quick blow to the heart by the look of it...

DALAND Where did that lance thing come from?

DOCTOR Oh, that" s easy. From Ertikus" s toolbag... which I foolishly left open and unattended in the *Eurydice* control room.

ERTIKUS How can you two be so... calm?

DALAND *(Odd voice)* Doctor... Doctor...

DOCTOR Yes...?

DALAND His *other* hand. That" s gone, too...

BRTIKUS Oh, my g-

DOCTOR I should have known... Daland, be a good chap and see if you can find it lying around.

DALAND Find... hand... but I... Oh, all right. *(Moving off)* So it comes to this, hunting for severed hands in the dark...

DOCTOR Professor, you remember when Tarpov went mad? We noticed the similarity to the ancient and venerable saga of Gallifrey-

ERTIKUS (*Babbling)* I remember you not reading my book...

DOCTOR Remember the next part of the story.

ERTIKUS The next part of the- oh, yes, I see what you mean... „And then when Vandekyrian did offer his severed hand to Omega, Omega in his rage did not accept it, and said his betrayal was too great... *(Realising)* And he did strike off Vandekyrian" s other hand and smote him n dead."

DOCTOR Now it" s starting to make a little bit of sense. We now know why the waste disposal was switched off. Someone wanted to *stop* him destroying his other hand.

ERTIKUS Someone wanted his hand? Why?

DOCTOR I think the clue" s in the next bit... „And in his remorse Omega did..."

ERTIKUS „And in his remorse at what he had done, Omega did place Vandekyrian" s remaining hand in the stellar manipulator so that he would have a hand in the great project that he had helped bring into being. And henceforth the stellar manipulator was known to all as "the Hand of Omega"." **DOCTOR** Yes, I was never quite sure why it was called the „Hand of Omega" . I mean, why not the „Hand of Vandekyrian" ?

ERTIKUS Most of these things boil down to politics. Vandekyrian was not very popular at the time as you could imagine, neither was Rassilon, who was thought by many to be behind Vandekyrian. Rassilon was a politician. Now, what does any politician do when a bitter rival dies in glorious circumstances?

DOCTOR What else? Honour him up to the eyeballs. How can the followers of Omega attack you when you" re painting yourself as his greatest fan ever?

ERTIKUS Exactly. But I" m not sure how this helps us. Doctor, there is a maniac running rampant... **DOCTOR** He" s not running anywhere. He - or she - is amongst us, and isn" t going anywhere. Now, who would want to crudely act out the legend of Omega? Someone obsessed with Omega. Professor?

Perhaps someone who knows the legend inside out?

ERTIKUS Doctor - just because it was my laser probe - I hope I you" re not implying that I would- *(Hisses)* Daland! It must be Daland.

DOCTOR Must it?

ERTIKUS Facts, Doctor. Why did Tarpov destroy his own hand? Because he thought he was Vandekyrian. Who cut off Vandekyrian" s other hand? Omega. Daland acts as Omega. Therefore, Daland is the murderer. There you go, Doctor, QED.

DOCTOR Hmm...

ERTIKUS And you said yourself, someone is crudely acting out the legend of Omega. And there" s no one more used to crudely acting out the legend of Omega than Daland...

DALAND *(Off mic)* Doctor, I" d like a word with you. Over here.

DOCTOR Coming, Mr. Daland. *(Joins DALAND)* Certainly, what about?

DALAND I think he did it. Ertikus.

DOCTOR Did what?

DALAND Killed Tarpov, of course. Come on, Doctor, it doesn" t take a genius to see that the

murderer is pretending to be Omega. Take it from someone" s who" s pretended to be Omega for years... It" s obviously someone who" s obsessed with the legends. That" s „obsessed" pronounced „stark staring bonkers" ...

DOCTOR Really?

DALAND Actor" s intuition, Doctor. The old fossil" s been studying Omega all his life. He" s been telling me about his life" s ambition, to find this ship. Do you know he" s been planning this expedition for years? If that" s not obsessed I don" t know what is.

DOCTOR Well, that" s a very interesting... theory.

DALAND He" ll be wearing silly hats and leaping into the nearest black hole next.

DOCTOR Hmm... Yes... Perhaps we" re looking at this the wrong way. Let" s have a look at what" s actually happened. Tarpov is attacked. Tarpov is killed. Between those two events he smuggles himself aboard a shuttle. Why? Omega is outraged at the very idea that Tarpov might have said to Sentia. Why? **DALAND** He smuggled himself onto the shuttle to tell Sentia something, so... Omega killed him to shut him up.

DOCTOR (Wearily) Daland... Omega happens to be a non-corporeal mass of psionic ectoplasm.

DALAND Oh, yeah.

DOCTOR But, maybe... Perhaps he wasn" t deluded. Perhaps he knew something about Omega. Are you sure you didn" t hear what Tarpov said to Sentia on the shuttle?

DALAND No, no, all I heard. Oh- no! That" s what I wanted to tell you, Doctor, but I forgot all about it when the old crones turned up. About, the shuttle controls being blasted. I don" t think Tarpov did it.

DOCTOR He used the gun to blow up the intercom. Why do you think he didn" t blow up the cockpit as well?

DALAND Well, I had my eyes closed and everything, but I could have sworn I heard the flare gun get fired again after Tarpov ran out...

DOCTOR Really? Oh, I see. Of course. Of course. Maybe Omega couldn" t have killed Tarpov... But there is another possibility... Right, I" ll just be a few minutes. (*Louder now)* Don" t go away, will you?

Stay with Ertikus.

DALAND (*Hissing)* Doctor, you can" t be serious, he might be the killer!

DOCTOR (*Hissing)* I doubt it...

ERTIKUS (*Off mic)* Wait a minute!!!

DOCTOR Don" t forget you two! Stay together!

DALAND/ERTIKUS *You can't leave me with-*

FX: Door opens, closes. There is an awkward silence. Then:

DALAND Well...

ERTIKUS Erm...

DALAND I think I have to...

ERTIKUS Yes... I think... So do I...

DALAND Yes...

ERTIKUS But he did tell us to...

DALAND Stay together, didn" t he?

DALAND/ERTIKUS Yeees...

ERTIKUS There" s something I" ve been meaning to ask you... Why are you here... On this ship? I thought that the Doctor and I were the only-

DALAND Oh, we" re just here to conduct the marriage ceremony.

ERTIKUS What? Marriage?

DALAND Oh, didn" t you know? That" s why we" re here. Sentia" s getting married to the ghost of Omega. And they" re setting up house in a world of anti-matter.

ERTIKUS (*Scared of DALAND)* Oh... really?

DALAND I suppose I should look on the bright side. Saves me buying them a toaster.

ERTIKUS That" s... very interesting. Thanks for telling me. *(To himself)* He" s completely off his chump...

DALAND What have you been doing...?

ERTIKUS Ooooh, I" ve just been hunting out the Scintillans. Oh, do you remember? Tarpov

mentioned Scintillans? Well, I" ve seen them. They" re big ghostly transparent creatures who float around this ship screeching like nails on a blackboard.

DALAND Oh, right. Anyone else seen these... Scintillans?

ERTIKUS Oh, no... Just me.

DALAND Oh, I see. I see *(under his breath)* Mad as an Ion storm...

SCENE 45: TOUR SHUTTLE. CARGO HOLD.

OMEGA My dearest, Sentia... success! The Doctor has delivered to us the means of his own downfall. He now has no choice but to follow us into our universe. Nothing can keep us from eternity together. Nothing. Take this device, it is our key to our new realm.

SENTIA Omega - about the others here, they can" t stay here, can they...?

OMEGA Why not? I" m sure they will find it most interesting.

SENTIA You- you" re not going to harm them, are you? They can go...

OMEGA Stop your incessant bleating, girl! Do you think I could hurt them?

SENTIA Well, you tried to hurt Tarpov.

OMEGA He was unhelpful to our plan.

SENTIA But - oh, never mind.

OMEGA You can say what is in your mind to me, my dear...We *are* to be married, after all. Now, do you really think I would hurt anyone?

SENTIA (*Obviously not completely convinced)* No.

DOCTOR What a good question.

SENTIA Doctor... I...

OMEGA He obviously has something to say, my dear. Best we let him say it so he can leave us in peace.

DOCTOR Yes, I do indeed have „something to say" ... Tarpov is dead.

SENTIA Oh, no! How?

DOCTOR Murdered, of course. Stabbed through the heart. His other hand was severed and removed.

SENTIA Oh... Oh, no... Tarpov, poor Tarpov. *(Stifled sob)*

OMEGA And, Doctor...?

DOCTOR Well I was just saying to Ertikus, someone here has been re-enacting old stories, and it" s obvious that someone has an unhealthy obsession with the legend of Omega. And who else is more obsessed with the legend of Omega than Omega himself?

OMEGA Why would I hurt this man? He was nothing to me.

DOCTOR Oh, come on, Omega. He kidnaps and threatens your precious Sentia? You rage about him telling something to Sentia? What j was it about? Those pesky Scintillans?

OMEGA Look at me, Doctor, I am as insubstantial as the air. I can do nothing. What can I do in this state?

DOCTOR That" s what I thought at first, but then I thought, perhaps you have an agent to do your bidding. Sentia, perhaps.

SENTIA Me? But why...?

DOCTOR Someone attacked Tarpov back on the Heritage Centre... Oh, and it was you who disabled the shuttle, wasn" t it, Sentia? What" s going on?

SENTIA This is starting to turn into a bit of a nightmare.

DOCTOR A bit? Listen to Omega" s words, Sentia. Think about what" s happening here. You can" t leave with him, you know. He will tire j of you... And then he" ll destroy you.

SENTIA I didn" t kill Tarpov, you know...

DOCTOR Somehow Omega found a way, even without your help. He is mad, you know.

SENTIA I really want to see Omega" s universe. We have such plans...

DOCTOR (*Tenderly*) I" m sure you do. But you can find happiness in this one, you know. It" s not a bad old cosmos. Flowers, cups of tea, trees, mugs of tea, sunsets, pots of tea... as you can see, I don" t expect too much from this universe...

SENTIA *(Laughs')* Oh, Doctor, it" s too late. Omega and I... We" ve come too far to turn back now. **DOCTOR** No, it" s not. Ertikus and Daland are waiting for us. All we have to do is collect the two old ladies and all leave in Ertikus" s TARDIS.

SENTIA Sorry? What? What ladies?

DOCTOR The ladies from the tour shuttle. I brought them to you.

SENTIA You didn" t...

DOCTOR I... didn" t?

OMEGA (*Chuckles)*

DOCTOR Omega...

OMEGA Let me tell you a story, Doctor. Once upon a time, there were two little old ladies.

DOCTOR Enough games, Omega... What is going on?

OMEGA And they lived happily ever after. Or they would have done. But, sadly, the wicked Doctor left them to die in the heart of a dead ship.

SCENE 46: CHAMBER IN THE *EURYDICE*.

Atmos: deep echo.

GLINDA (*Very echoey)* Now this looks more like it. Very authentic. Dusty, filthy and old... (*Raises voice)* Echoey, too...

MAVEN What?

The words 'echoey too' roll back and hit them again.

MAVEN *(Getting them on the rebound)* Oh, yes!

FX: Rattle of door.

GLINDA Well, I do believe that strange-looking man has locked us in here. Well, that" s not on, is it? We didn" t get locked in a dark room on Haltropus IV, did we? No... And Haltropus IV was rubbish.

FX: Another rattle.

GLINDA Well, this is no good. We could be here for hours. As luck would have it I have a little device in my pocket that" ll sort us out...

FX: Series of bleeps.

GLINDA Care for a game of five-dimensional cribbage, Mave?

MAVEN Oh, yes!

SCENE 47: TOUR SHUTTLE. CARGO HOLD.

DOCTOR Where are they?

OMEGA Safe, Doctor.

DOCTOR Well, I want proof so I" m going to... Wait. The remote activator. Where is it? I had it a moment ago. It was in my pocket. It" s gone...

OMEGA It" s safe, too. A moral dilemma for you, Doctor. Stay with us, and you give everyone here the possibility of another existence in another cosmos. Leave, and you condemn your precious humans to certain obliteration.

DOCTOR (*Evenly)* Where is it?

OMEGA (*Mockingly*) Sentia, he wants to know where it is...

SENTIA No...

DOCTOR Please, give me the activator.

OMEGA (*Chuckles)* Now, Sentia, you can give me back the device, if you please.

SENTIA No! You" re going to hurt them! I knew it! All your promises! You want to take them all through with us! You don" t care what happens to them!

OMEGA Sentia, I promise, I will let your friends go free.

DOCTOR Don" t believe him. He" s mad, Sentia. He always was and he always will be.

OMEGA You" ve tried to goad me before, Doctor. It will not happen again.

SCENE 48: *EURYDICE.* CORRIDOR.

FX: Chime.

ERTIKUS What was that?

DALAND Sounds like the shuttle" s PA...

DOCTOR (*Over Tannoy)* Sentia, I want you to listen carefully... this is very important...

DALAND It" s the Doctor...

DOCTOR (*Over Tannoy)* Those two ladies are in danger! They" re somewhere on this ship and we have to find them. We" ve got to get everyone back to the TARDIS and leave here. Let Omega take his Journey alone.

SENTIA *(Over Tannoy)* Doctor, we can" t go against Omega.

OMEGA *(Over Tannoy)* Indeed, Doctor, surely you wouldn" t try and destroy a harmonious relationship such as ours? A relationship that Sentia clearly wants.

DALAND He" s rigged the cargo hold" s Tannoy to broadcast through both ships! I think he" s sending us a message... Clever old, Doctor...

ERTIKUS Did she say... Omega? It is! That" s... That" s Omega! I" ve studied the Pre-Rassilon data extracts... I know that voice anywhere...

DALAND I know it is, I told you. I think the Doctor wants us to find the old ladies... Come on, Ertikus, we" ve got to do what he says, get everyone back to your TARDIS...

ERTIKUS What? You must be joshing. You don" t understand, sir. This is the chance of several lifetimes... (Off *mic)* You look for them, Daland, I" ll be back soon...

DALAND *Prof!!!* I really wouldn" t...

SCENE 49: TOUR SHUTTLE COCKPIT.

DOCTOR Please, Sentia, it" s vital! I need the activator!

SENTIA I can" t! I can" t give it to either of you! Don" t you see! Don" t you *see?* hurting. *(Screams)* Omega! You" re

OMEGA You are my bright star, Sentia, if you defy me then there is nothing left for either of us.

Do you understand? Nothing!

Cries of SENTIA as OMEGA takes the device off her.

DOCTOR Sentia, get out of here.

SENTIA I can" t...

DOCTOR I" m in no mood to argue! *(FX: Door)* I don" t understand, Omega. You" re supposed to be a mass of psychic energy. How did you take the device off her like that? How can you hold it in your hand?

OMEGA Why, it" s magic, Doctor. I can" t tell you how it" s done. The magic might stop working. And I can do more than hold it, Doctor. Look, I can press the buttons. *(FX: Bleeps)* Not bad for a ghostly presence, I" m sure you will agree. Just one pulse from this machine... And we can begin our great odyssey...

FX: Bleeps. Low hum. Door opens.

ERTIKUS *(Off mic)* Doctor, Doctor, is that you?

DOCTOR Ertikus, what are you doing here?

FX: Whirr of VIDIBOT accompanies ERTIKUS into room.

ERTIKUS *(On mic)* You" ve not been entirely honest with me, have you, Doctor? I heard you, Doctor. I heard you talking to Omega.

DOCTOR Professor, now what makes you think...

ERTIKUS Don" t try and bluster with me, Doctor. I" m a four-star blusterer myself, with en suite prevarication. He" s here, isn" t he? While I" m running around corridors like an idiot trying to unravel the mystery of Omega, you" re taking tea with the chap.

DOCTOR It" s not like that.

ERTIKUS Then tell me what it is like, Doctor. I heard you talking to him. I want to talk to him.

DOCTOR I don" t think that" s a good idea.

ERTIKUS He" s here, isn" t he? Don" t you see what this means to me? I want to know. I" m tired of

assuming from sources and extrapolating from dog-eared documents. I Just want to know.

OMEGA Do you, Professor? Well here I am. Right here in front of you.

ERTIKUS What? No! No, it can" t be! You" re not!

OMEGA Ask me your question, Professor, and I will answer.

DOCTOR Omega, leave him alone...

OMEGA Ask me! You want to know about the Scintillans, Professor? I killed them. I killed them all. And do you know why? Do you want to know my secret? My secret is that I am mad. There. Now you know. (*Suddenly vicious')* Now you can die happy!

ERTIKUS (*Strangulated)* Doctor... Please... Help... Help... Stop...

DOCTOR No, Omega, you can" t!

OMEGA (*Strained)* Get off me, Doctor, do not interfere!

DOCTOR *Please!* (*FX: Prof's neck is broken. Body hits the floor)* Oh, no... (*Bends down to examine ERTIKUS)* That was his last body! What have you... He was harmless!

OMEGA He was a nosy old fool. He would have found out about the Scintillans and told the universe. He would have told... *her...*

DOCTOR That" s it? That he might find out your guilty secret, whatever it is? Is any secret worth a life? You have completely severed your link with reality, Omega...

OMEGA It is for you to acknowledge reality, Doctor. I have the activator.

DOCTOR If you decide to use that, and this ship starts to move into your universe, I promise you, I will take everyone I can and leave in the TARDIS, innocent lives or no innocent lives. And that includes Sentia.

OMEGA Then I will make a deal with you. Join Sentia and I on the Other side of existence, and I will let your human friends go. We will put them into the shuttle and leave them spinning in space. I" m sure they can clear this sector and get rescued by a passing vessel.

DOCTOR You wouldn" t keep your side of the bargain for a moment...

OMEGA Oh, I would. You see, my dear Doctor, they are more than mere hostages. They are my audience. They can tell all that they saw Omega, the great King of Time, leave for his eternal realm with his gracious Queen, with just one person who believes enough to speak up for omega and to live their life with him... You see, Doctor, how I am perceived is all I have left, and I will... I will... be perceived as a king.

PART FOUR

SCENE 50 (CONT.): *EURYDICE.*

FX: TARDIS materialisation.

DOCTOR Oh, no. *NO!* That can" t be! *That can't be! (OMEGA)* This is *my wedding! I* didn" t invite *him!!!*

FX: TARDIS door creaks open.

DOCTOR Hello, I" m the Doctor... *(Beat)* Oh, dear... I seem to have arrived a little late...

Now OMEGA is revealed, and the 'DOCTOR' confronts the fact that he is OMEGA too. His voice becomes 'blurred' as he slips from the DOCTOR'S voice to OMEGA'S. There's a muttering of voices in the background, to highlight the confusion in his identity.

DOCTOR Hello, Omega...

OMEGA Doctor...

DOCTOR I must say, it is very nice to see a familiar face. And you I can" t get a more familiar face than the one you" ve got there. I see you survived our little visit to Amsterdam.

OMEGA But at a terrible cost, Doctor. My mind was fractured, smashed into fragments. I was left with somewhat of an identity crisis.

DOCTOR Quite a common complaint for those who visit Amsterdam, I gather.

OMEGA But it worked, Doctor, it worked. The attempt to enter this universe using your bioimprint was a success! A success beyond imaginings, Doctor! *(Laughs insanely)* Oh, Doctor... Doctor...

(OMEGA'S voice submerges, the DOCTOR'S voice emerges) Doctor... is that you? Is that you?

DOCTOR Yes, it" s me.

OMEGA *(As DOCTOR)* Thank goodness you" re here! The Time Lords received my message...

DOCTOR *(Warily)* Yes, yes we did.

OMEGA I must say I didn" t expect them to send *another* Doctor. But... then again... using two Doctors to defeat Omega... Well... it" s been done before, hasn" t it...?

DOCTOR Yes...

DOCTOR/OMEGA *(Together)* I remember...

OMEGA *(DOCTOR)* We" ve got to combine our wills to defeat him, Doctor... We have to... be careful... He" s quite insane... Quite mad...

DOCTOR *(Sadly - talking over OMEGA)* Don" t you worry, Doctor, I" ll be careful... You just - look after yourself...

OMEGA Quite mad... Quite *mad...* Quite... Quite... *(OMEGA'S voice takes over)* Quite a success... Eh, Doctor? *(Laughs)* A 200 per cent success! Not only did I get your body, but your mind as well...

DOCTOR Buy one, get one free... Well, I always thought about giving you a piece of my mind, but never to this extent.

OMEGA *(His voice strains)* Amusing... is it not, Doctor? When we first met I asked you to share the burden of my world. Now I am in this one, we share everything... *Everything... Everything... (His voice fades and* dies)

FX: OMEGA slumps, the DOCTOR catches him.

DOCTOR Omega! Oh, no... (*Strains.*) Help me keep him upright...

SENTIA Is he all right?

OMEGA (*Low rumbling groan)*

DOCTOR For the moment. The pocket of dimensional instability in this part of space doesn" t usually affect Time Lords, but Omega" s got a healthy dose of instability of his own to contend with... Well, Daland, I expect you" re about to say something which goes along the lines of „What on earth is going on?" **DALAND** Yes, although there were going to be a few more expletives in there, but that" s about the gist of it...

DOCTOR I think I" m about to say something along the lines of „It" s a long story" ... You see... Omega... This chap... here... Well, it all started...

SENTIA He wanted to escape from his world of anti-matter and to get into this one. He developed a plan, which involved using the Doctor" s physical bio-imprint to create a „positive" body. The Time Lords assumed that he failed and Omega was destroyed on Earth, but the experiment succeeded. Unfortunately, it worked too well. It transferred the Doctor" s psychic imprint as well as his physical one. Omega ended up with two personalities inside the same body...

DOCTOR Ah, well done, Sentia...Very well explained... I could use someone like you on a permanent basis... Daland, do you think we can get him into my TARDIS...

DALAND I" ll have a go...

DOCTOR He might be less prone to the dimensional stresses and strains inside there...

OMEGA (*Sluggish)* No... No... TARDIS... Take this...

DOCTOR What" s this?

SENTIA It controls the engines of the *Eurydice,* Doctor.

DOCTOR So it is. An electronic activator, bypassing the symbiotic ignition. Just what I" d have done.

(*To OMEGA)* You want me to send you back to where you once belonged, I take it...

OMEGA Take the... prancing... fool...

DOCTOR The who?

DALAND *(Unamused)* He means me, Doctor.

DOCTOR Does he? Well, prancing fool, you heard him, prance into the TARDIS.

DALAND You" re not planning to help him, are you?

DOCTOR Well, I can" t refuse a handsome chap like this, can I?

DALAND You don" t know what he" s done! He" s murdered Tarpov and Ertikus! He" s a monster!

DOCTOR And would you prefer this murdering monster to be here with us in our universe, or

safely tucked up in a nice little universe of his own?

DALAND Ah. I see your logic there - but what about Sentia? She wants to go with him. She can" t, can she?

SENTIA But I can now, don" t you see? You can all leave, and the Professor" s TARDIS will keep me safe until Omega and I are in our new home.

DALAND She" s as mad as he is! Doctor, tell her...

SENTIA It" s my choice, Doctor. My decision.

DOCTOR It would be intolerably dangerous.

SENTIA Look, we" ve been working towards this for a long time. He won" t be mad on the other side.

His will can take control again-

DALAND What kind of-

SENTIA *He'll be sane.* He won" t be a monster, he won" t hurt people any more. He" ll be well again.

DALAND But y-

SENTIA *Don't worry* about me, Daland.

DALAND Me - worried? I- I" m not... oh, I am, aren" t I? I am concerned. Do you know, I think that" s

the first genuine emotion I" ve had a proper go at?

SENTIA (Warmly) Don" t think I" m not flattered that you decided to waste it on me.

DOCTOR (*Harrumphing to break the moment*) Now, I gather there are some people kept in some sort of hostage situation. I don" t think we can leave without them, can we?

OMEGA (*From floor. Getting strength back)* I will... take you...to where they are concealed... It is not far...

DOCTOR (*Straining)* Good. Up we get again. Omega, if you" re inhabiting an exact copy of my body, then I think I need to lose a bit of weight...

OMEGA Thank you, Doctor... *(FX: Dull metallic scraping which echoes around the corridors)* What was that?

DOCTOR *(Moving off mic)* Nothing...

FX: The scraping ends with a dull metallic thud.

DALAND *(Whispering)* You know what that sounded like...?

SENTIA *(Whispering)* What?

DALAND *(Whispering)* Like a ship docking... Someone" s come to rescue us...

SENTIA *(To herself)* No... It can" t be.

DALAND *(Hissing)* Yes... At last we" re getting out of this madhouse!

SENTIA *(Out loud)* Omega, it" s a ship!

DALAND *(Still whispering)* What are you doing? Shut up!

SENTIA It" s a ship! It" s just docked with us!

OMEGA Doctor, have you betrayed me?

DOCTOR No, Omega...

OMEGA You have brought Time Lords with you to take me bade and answer for my crimes!

DOCTOR What crimes? Think! Why would Time Lords bother docking? Eh? If I brought Time Lords

we wouldn" t hear ships clanging together would we? Wouldn" t we hear TARDISes?

Drawn-out dematerialisation noise, quiet at first then growing in volume.

DOCTOR Oh, no...

OMEGA Doctor, you lie! You *have* betrayed me! *(Off mic)* No one is putting me on trial for genocide, Doctor! No one is erasing Omega from the time line! Tell your precious High Council that!

SENTIA Wait!

DALAND Sentia, leave him! *(Shouts)* Sentia!

DOCTOR Leave her, Daland… She" s made her decision.

DALAND *(His voice distorts)* But he could do anything to her in that state… Doctor… Doctor… what" s happening?

From this point, DALAND's voice is slightly distorted, the DOCTOR'S voice remains normal.

DOCTOR *(Off mic)* Look at that TARDIS. That" s Ertikus" s, isn" t it? You see the way that? it" s flickering like

DALAND Yes…

DOCTOR Some TARDISes tend not to hang around if the operators… ah, depart. There" s this symbiotic link thing, they get awfully attached to their owners.

DALAND *(Sounding distinctly queasy)* Doctor…

DOCTOR Oh, yes. Most TARDISes spend millennia grieving – some just hurl themselves into the Vortex, never to be seen again. Somewhere at the end of time there" s an elephants" graveyard of broken capsules. I always meant to go and have a look one day…

DALAND Doctor, I" m feeling very strange…

DOCTOR That TARDIS is the one thing keeping this area of space free from dimensional interference. We" ve got to persuade it to stay or you and the others will be torn apart…

SCENE 51: *EURYDICE*. CORRIDOR.

FX: Warping weird sound is heard throughout the ship, probably based on TARDIS noise.

SENTIA Omega, what" s happening? I… can" t… focus… The walls are changing… The ship… I" m getting swallowed by the ship…

OMEGA So, you want to try to punish me? You can infest all recorded history with your piety…

(DOCTOR) But I, Omega, will defy you…

FX: Whispering.

OMEGA (*OMEGA)* No, no… Not the Time Lords… It" s them, they" ve found me… *(DOCTOR)* They" ve found us…

FX: The whispering builds into the huge 'SCINTILLAN' shrieking sound we heard in Part Two.

OMEGA *(OMEGA)* Leave me… *(DOCTOR)* Leave us… *(OMEGA)* alone!

SCINTILLANS *(Variety of high floaty voices)* Omega… Omega… Why did you kill us? Was it something we said? Was it something we did? Who are you to do this to us?

OMEGA I am… I am not… *(As DOCTOR)* But I am… not… Omega… I am… the Doctor… I am *(OMEGA)* Lord of lime, the *(DOCTOR)* Doctor, the saviour of the Time Lords… Omega, the *(OMEGA)* Protector of Gallifrey… I am *(DOCTOR)* the Doctor…? I am not… Omega… I am not a rat, or a cat or a bat… *(OMEGA)* I am… a mole and I live in a hole…

SCINTILLANS Who are you to do this? Who are you?

OMEGA *(DOCTOR)* I am… we are… *(OMEGA)* I don" t know.

FX: The 'TARDIS-style' interference dies down, and the SCINTILLAN voices manifest into a voice - CARDINAL LUVIS. This can be a distorted version of another cast member, or just anyone knocking around the studio...

SCINTILLAN Who are you? Who are you to do this? *(Voice changes to CARDINAL LUVIS)* Who are you to do this? In my class? Peylix! *Peylix!* I'm talking to *you* boy!

SCENE 52: *EURYDICE.*

FX: TARDIS Still dematerialsing, in a very drawn-out and mournful way.

DALAND (*Less distorted)* I feel a bit better...

DOCTOR That" s because you" re near the source of the dimensional stability... Unfortunately it might not be around for much longer... (*Shouts to TARDIS)* Oh, come on, old girl, life goes on! There" s a whole universe to explore, places to go, people to see. Come on, help me...

DALAND Um, yeah... You" ll meet another Time Lord I" m sure...! You" re very good looking for your age...

DOCTOR (To *DALAND, exasperated)* What did you say?

DALAND Sorry...

DOCTOR Come on, you" re not old, you" re a classic! Your rotor might be a bit rusty round the edges,
but you know what they say: there" s many i a good interstitial vortex field maintained on an old relative continuum stabiliser...

FX: The dematerialisation noise continues.

DOCTOR It" s no good, she" s too upset. They must have been together a very long time. Come on!

Back to the TARDIS! My TARDIS!

SCENE 53: CORRIDORS OF THE *EURYDICE*.

FX: The atmosphere is less strained, but still 'dreamlike'.

LUVIS This is your Chronological Studies paper, is it not?

OMEGA (*Either sounds or acts younger)* Sir, if this is about hiding that warp ellipse field generator in my desk...

LUVIS No, Peylix... Giving yourself three years to complete a three-hour examination paper
shows a scintilla of initiative, at least. I" m, talking about *what* you wrote, boy... The Genefrenian" s theory of temporal ageing...? Would you like to explain, Peylix?

OMEGA Yes, sir, the theory states that time itself, like everything else, ages - that time itself is curved because it has started to bend like an old man" s spine.

LUVIS (*Impatient)* Yes, yes...

OMEGA They say if we can isolate where time is oldest, we can secure, control and map out history for ourselves... like finding a worn" out hole in a coat and then using it to sew on a button. There" s this place they know, they call it the sector of forgotten souls, if we could detonate a star in that area-

LUVIS I didn" t ask you to outline the damn thing again! I" m asking you why you ignored my teachings and instead had the nerve to use your exam paper to peddle some tin-plated mongrel theory from a *lesser species!*

OMEGA I thought the Genefrenian theory was interesting...

LUVIS No lesser species understand time the way we do, young Peylix. That is why we call them „lesser species" . That is why the cosmic sciences are our core curriculum and the rest of the universe, its history, its species and its cultures, all come under the umbrella title of „General Studies" .

OMEGA But I think it could work!

LUVIS You are a dangerous young man, Peylix, with dangerous ideas, and I will make sure you never get any opportunity to try them out. To this end I am not giving you a simple delta fail - just in case some deluded Cardinal gives you the opportunity to retake your exams.

OMEGA S-sorry?

LUVIS You are very honoured Peylix, this grade, though theoretically possible, has never actually been issued to a student in the history of the Academy... The lowest grade possible. Do you know what it means? It means you will never rise to the first rank. Do you know what grade, I mean...?

OMEGA Yes, sir...

Reality starts to intrude on the scene. SENTIA is in the distance, calling to him.

SENTIA Omega! Omega! *Omega!*

Back to dreamlike state.

OMEGA Omega...

SCENE 54: TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM.

FX: Console room hum as the doors open and they run in.

DOCTOR Right, got to be a bit of a rush job this... I only hope it" s not too late...

FX: TARDIS is operated. Panels opened, clattering.

DALAND Come on, Doctor!

DOCTOR (*Exasperated)* I" m not playing the xylophone here, Daland! It involves a lot of circuit rejigging to- ah! That should do it... Just takes a bit of know-how, that" s all...

FX: Reassuring electronic noise... whatever...

DALAND That" s better... I felt like I was turning inside out for a minute there...

DOCTOR Well, there" s a very simple scientific reason for that... You *were* being turned inside out...

Shame about the Professor" s TARDIS... She was just too upset.

DALAND Well, that" s the way it goes. Girls get upset about me all the time.

DOCTOR Really? „You" re very good looking for your age" ? I recall that was your technique...

DALAND I" m not used to chatting up inanimate objects... Oh, there were those two stewardesses from the planet Xegilias...

DOCTOR Anyway, it" s more of a shame than just a TARDIS" s feelings. We only have my TARDIS, and so we" re back to square one. *(FX: Bleep)* Oh, dear, we" re not just back to square one. It" s worse than that. Do you know what that noise was earlier?

DALAND What?

DOCTOR Your heritage centre has gone on a little tour of its own, and it" s docked with this ship.

DALAND It" s not done *that* before.

DOCTOR Well, it" s not had a large object on its doorstep before. Simple physics. This ship is large,

very close, and its own gravitational field has overridden your museum" s hyperstabilisers and dragged it towards us. That thud we heard was the automatic docking procedure coming into effect. So, hey presto, we have a whole coachload of tourists who" ve joined us and are now in as much danger as we are.

DALAND You do seem to know a lot about what" s going on here.

DOCTOR So, all I have to do is find Omega, try and calm him and lead me to his hostages, while at the same time persuading Sentia and party of elderly tourists to join us in the TARDIS under Omega" s nose. Splendid. And what do I do after breakfast, I ask myself.... What, sorry?

DALAND Oh, I was just saying, you seem to know an awful lot about what" s going on, considering you" ve just got here. You know my name, you know about Ertikus, the heritage centre, I was just wondering, that" s all...

DOCTOR I" ve got Omega to thank for that... When the High Council asked me to track him down I went to Earth, to where I last left him. Unfortunately he wasn" t there. Which was odd... I" ll try infra red...

FX: More bleeps that continue under the DOCTOR'S speech.

DOCTOR Odder still was that when the Time Lords received a telepathic message, asking for help in defeating Omega in another part of the galaxy and a completely different time zone... As I was in hot pursuit, the message was routed through the thought transference switchboard and directly into my mind. And the oddest thing of all was... the message was from myself...

DALAND Riiiigght...

DOCTOR Not for the first time, of course. As a matter of fact, I" ve always considered talking to myself to be the first sign of sanity... But of' course it wasn" t me at all...

DALAND Oh, I get you. It was Omega...

DOCTOR Exactly. Ironic, really. He wasn" t aware of it, but he was asking for help to defeat himself.

DALAND That" s nice of him.

DOCTOR So putting two and two together - I guessed that Omega was sharing his body with my

mind print, and that the two psyches were taking it in turns to be dominant... Like a weather house... I wonder if that" s what it" s like?

DALAND Like a what?

DOCTOR A weather house. There" s a little plastic man with an umbrella who comes out when it" s raining, and a little plastic woman who comes out when it" s sunny, you see. And the little plastic man never sees the little plastic woman and vice versa, they" re probably not even aware that each other even exist... I always thought that was rather sad myself... What about you? Think that" s sad?

DALAND Thinking about little plastic men? Yes, it" s very sad.

DOCTOR One of our plastic figures, the Omega one, is aware he" s in the weather house, and the other one, our Doctor, doesn" t... Though I think my arrival here means he" s starting to realise... Omega could well suffer a complete mental breakdown... And if that happens...

DALAND And if that happens...?

DOCTOR We" ll have more to worry about than the weather...

SCENE 55: *EURYDICE.*

LUVIS Omega. Omega... (*Echoes and distorts into another disparaging voice, that of RAS, again this can be another member of the cast with a distorted voice*) Come on, Omega! Keep up! We" ll never get to the top at this rate.

OMEGA Why did we have to come to the top of Mount Plutarch? You know what the watchtower officer said. They" ve seen Boojums on the mountain, what happens if we come across one?

RAS You don" t believe those old Sisterhood stories.

OMEGA Frankly, Ras, I do.

RAS *(Stops, out of breath)* There you go, Omega, look!

OMEGA Don" t call me Omega. My name is Peylix.

HAS Oh, Omega, everyone calls you that, and I have no wish go against fashion. Don" t be such a dullard... Nicknames give you character...

OMEGA You don" t like people calling you Ras any more.

RAS Nobody except you, Omega! That" s different. It wasn" t endearing it was just a silly vulgarism. It means nothing. *(Shouts)* Omega represents your achievement, the only student in the history of the Academy to bear the mark of Omega... No one even knew your name before you were such a blimp... You should thank Cardinal Luvis...

OMEGA Huh!

RAS Come on. Look! Look at the little lights! It" ll soon be ours, Omega!

OMEGA *(Unenthusiastic)* Oh... Yes... The stars... Very good. Very poetic, Ras. They" re a map of time, I suppose... shining from the past and future... Yes, one day, the past and future of all of them will be ours, I know...

RAS No, you idiot! Don" t look up, look down!

OMEGA What" s that... No... What" s happening... Those lights... That... That" s where the Academy is... The Capitol... It" s on fire... Ras, The Capitol" s on fire!

RAS It" s started! Revolution, Omega! The Inquisitors have started rounding everyone up, all the naysayers, doom-mongers and all I round moaning-minnies. All the Luddites who don" t believe in progress. Our progress... you can have all that up there, my friend, after we" ve got control of everything down here...

OMEGA No... No... We" re scientists... It shouldn" t be done with bloodshed, Ras, it" s not right... **RAS** You are tiresome, Omega. That" s why I didn" t bother telling you, you" d have only started whimpering and we" d have had to have rounded you up with the others. Come on, we" re going back...

OMEGA Where?

RAS The detention cells. Get your chance to thank Cardinal Luvis... Better hurry... He won" t be there for long... Come on…

SCENE 56: TARDIS ROOM.

DOCTOR *(FX: Bleep)* Come on... Come on... I think I" ve got him! So thanks to his telepathic message, I know pretty much everything there is | to know about the situation. A very unusual and refreshing feeling for myself. Take a look at the scanner. *(FX: Scanner)* This big angry blob I here, we can guess that" s Omega... And these little angry blobs floating around his head. Now, what does that tell us?

DALAND Your scanner" s on the blink?

DOCTOR It" s like that because I" ve programmed the scanner to tune out everything but psionic energy... Now, look, there are tiny strands connecting the little blobs to the big blob. Now do you see? *(A pause, then he sighs)* The creatures are composed of psionic energy. *Omega's* psionic energy. The *Eurydice* is acting like a microwave oven, reflecting and focusing it back on the host. In effect, he" s attacking himself.

DALAND That" s good.

DOCTOR What did I say about a mental breakdown? A megalomaniac schizophrenic with telepathic abilities in a high psionic I field is hardly „good" . Far from it.

DALAND If you say so.

DOCTOR This sector plays tricks with the mind at the best of time, but you put a Time Lord with a mind as powerful as Omega in it… everything gets amplified. Just as those creatures are manifestations of his mind, his neuroses and subconscious feelings of guilt are leaking out of him and influencing vulnerable minds...

DALAND Oh... like Tarpov?

DOCTOR Like Tarpov.

DALAND Oh, right. So these ghost things that Ertikus saw. They" re not them then, just Omega" s
mind.

DOCTOR No, they" re not Sentillas, or whatever. Just the stuff that Omega" s dreams are made of.

Got it in one.

DALAND Right.

DOCTOR Now, where to look for these passengers first...

DALAND Oh, Doctor... I think your telepathic message got dropped to a puddle somewhere en route. Those „Sentillas" ... They" re actually pronounced *'Scintillans'...*

DOCTOR Sorry? *What* did you just say...?

SCENE 57: *EURYDICE.*

Dreamlike, with a hint of 'place' - we should be slightly aware that he 1a hallucinating the Eurydice *as it was. A bustling, powerful vessel.*

VANDEKYRIAN I said I know about the Scintillans, Lord Omega...

OMEGA I don" t understand, Vandekyrian...

VANDEKYRIAN Don" t play games with me. You know there" s an indigenous species on the third asteroid orbiting Jartus Twelve. Omega... I" ve seen them! Creatures of pure thought floating in the corridor as large as you like... They came here to tell us of their existence.

OMEGA You don" t know what you" re saying. We have searched thoroughly... There is no life there.

VANDEKYRIAN There is. I" ve seen it!

OMEGA But the misenscopes! Look at them! There is nothing! Nothing!

VANDEKYRIAN But we can" t risk it! We have to find another star...

OMEGA Do you know what you" re saying? That will take hundreds, perhaps thousands of years before we find another...

VANDEKYRIAN You" re contemplating genocide because you" re worried about time? When we find another star, every moment of time in the universe will be ours for the taking...

OMEGA *But not by me!* Do you think, after all the shame, the scorn that I have endured, that I will simply lie down and leave it to some upstart to take the glory of my research? I am not a warrior Vandekyrian, I am not a martyr, a tyrant or a hero... I am a scientist, I don" t even have my own name, anymore...

VANDEKYRIAN You" re mad.

OMEGA (*Pleading)* I" m hanging on to history with my fingernails, Vandekyrian. How others perceive me is all I have left...

VANDEKYRIAN Omega... You don" t know what you" re saying... Wake up and listen to yourself. Wake up!

The action shifts into reality.

SENTIA *Omega...* ! Wake up!

OMEGA Omega... I am (*DOCTOR voice*) not Omega... I am the Doctor...

SENTIA Oh, no... You said this knowledge would cause you some trauma... You are not the Doctor, you are Omega! You are *Omega.*

OMEGA I (*DOCTOR)* talked to Omega... in a dream...

SENTIA That" s right... But you were talking to yourself... You had to convince the Doctor part of you to help us...

OMEGA Sentia, my dear... You must never know what I did... killed them... Because I had to... You must never know of it... You must not (*DOCTOR)* discover what I did...

SENTIA To the Scintillans? But I do know, my darling. Tarpov told me before he died. He told me about the Scintillans...

OMEGA (*DOCTOR/OMEGA*) You know...?

SENTIA Yes... There was no need... it doesn" t change us...

OMEGA You know... about the Scintillans?

SENTIA It doesn" t change what I feel for you, what we have together... It doesn" t matter... You don" t have to...

OMEGA *(OMEGA. He is shrieking now) It doesn't matter?* I committed genocide and it doesn" t matter to you?

You babble of regrets, you mewl and whine why insignificant individuals had to die...

FX: Crash as OMEGA blunders around in a violent rage.

SENTIA Omega...

OMEGA ...yet an entire species is condemned by my hand and you shrug it off like confetti. What kind of creature are you?

SENTIA Omega, stop it!

OMEGA You are a *monster!!! A fiend from hell itself!!!*

SENTIA (*Choking)* No, Omega, no!

SCENE 58: *EURYDICE.*

FX: TARDIS door creaks open.

DOCTOR *(Sniffs)* It seems fine…

DALAND *(Off mic, within TARDIS)* Can I come out yet?

DOCTOR Wait a second – just doing a few tests…

DALAND *(In TARDIS)* Why are you waving that thing about?

DOCTOR Waving celery about in the air is a useful method for testing for dimensional instability.

DALAND *(In TARDIS)* How does *that* check for dimensional instability?

DOCTOR Well if it changes into pineapple, I now we are in trouble. *(Pause)* It" s safe, you can come out of the TARDIS now.

DALAND I hope Sentia " s all right.

DOCTOR We" ll go and find out shall we. Coming?

DALAND No, I" ll stay here. In case we need to make a quick getaway.

DOCTOR You" d better take the remote activator, then. Don" t want it falling into certain person" s hands... and don" t press any buttons. Take it from me, Daland. Finding yourself in the wrong universe is not a pleasant experience.

FX: Something is thrown and caught. Then a dull rattle.

DALAND There" s something loose in this, rattling around.

DOCTOR Oh, dear, that" s not a good sign. Is it damaged?

DALAND Hang on... I" ll just open it *(FX: Case opened)* Oh... eww...

DOCTOR Let me see... Oh, dear... That" s a bit grim, isn" t it?

DALAND Well, that" s one mystery solved... We know what happened to Tarpov" s other hand...

SCENE 59: *EURYDICE*. OMEGA'S THOUGHTS...

OMEGA You found him?

TIME LORD Yes, Lord Omega...

OMEGA Where was he?

TIME LORD In the engine room, my Lord. He... he was trying to destroy his hands...

OMEGA And did he succeed...?

TIME LORD He placed one in the fusion chamber, but he lost consciousness before he could destroy the other.

OMEGA Bring him in...

VANDEKYRIAN *(Weakly)* Omega... No... Please don" t... Think of what you" re doing...

OMEGA I have done, my friend. Vandekyrian, there are no life signs out there. We must continue.

TIME LORD He won" t unclench his hand, Lord Omega.

OMEGA I" m sorry, Vandekyrian... But you know the security protocols... *(FX: Whirr like a dentist's drill)* We need the handprint of everyone here present to activate the symbiotic link...

VANDEKYRIAN *(Screams)*

OMEGA Put... *this...* on the panel... Activate.

FX: Monstrously huge sound of the Hand of Omega as it is activated.

VANDEKYRIAN You... monster...

OMEGA If I have to be a monster to bring our race into a new age of enlightenment... Then so be it... I will be a monster...

FX: Bleep. Sun explodes.

SCENE 60: HERITAGE CENTRE. AIRLOCK.

DOCTOR Are here we are... They should be near the tea shop, if I know my tourists....

FX: Door opens. Bright shiny musical sting.

SENTIA *(Off mic)* Welcome to the Omega Heritage Centre giftshop, sir...

DOCTOR Sentia? Is that you?

SENTIA *(Off mic)* ... we hope you can avail yourself of our impressive selection of official Omega merchandise, Omegan happy hats, Black Star paperweights, Hand of Omega ashtrays. The children will love our humorous T-shirts, emblazoned with our copyrighted Omega Heritage Centre logo on the chest, and with a variety of messages, including thin one, „I spent millennia in a world of... *(falters)* anti-matter and all I got... got... was this lousy – uuh!

FX: SENTIA collapses.

DOCTOR Are you all right? You" re hurt...

SENTIA *(Distant)* Aww... you" re helping me up. You" re so sweet. You" re just like him, you know...

He was so vulnerable...

DOCTOR I" m sure he was.

SENTIA When I look at you, Doctor, it" s almost as if he was here, the same lonely face, the sad blue eyes... The soft gentle hands... The way he touched my face... The way he caressed- **DOCTOR** (*Breaking in, embarrassed)* Indeed.

SENTIA He" s just confused, you know. Just like when I met him on Algonal. He was lost, bewildered, he barely knew who he was. (*Giggles)* Didn" t know if he was a rat, or a bat, or a cat. I went over and asked if I could help him... And he remembered... I helped him remember... He told me that he... *he* was Omega... He" d come all the way from, where was it...?

DOCTOR Sentia, I can" t find the passengers. Do you know whereabouts the other passengers of the tour shuttle...?

SENTIA Oh, I put them somewhere... Can" t remember...

DOCTOR You must concentrate. Where?

SENTIA Oh! I remember.

DOCTOR Where?

SENTIA Amsterdam. He wandered into Ertikus" s TARDIS in Amsterdam, and the next thing poor little Omega knew, he was on Algonal... We found out that Ertikus was going to travel to the sector of forgotten souls and try and find the *Eurydice.* Ertikus was so excited, he was going to find Omega. *(Slyly, lazily)* but I found him first...

DOCTOR Sentia - please concentrate. Where are the *passengers...?*

SENTIA That" s when we planned to go through to his universe together. He would be whole again, and we would be so... so... happy.

DOCTOR Sentia...! Erm... Stewardess... could you point me to the rest of my party? I seem to be lost.

SENTIA *(Snapping back into stewardess mode)* Certainly sir, they" re just locked behind that door in the Prydonian" s Pantry. Wait a moment, I" ll just open it for you... *(FX: unwelcome bleep).* Oh, dear... I" m sorry, sir. It doesn" t seem to be operating correctly. If you" ll just wait a moment, sir, I" ll just apply my door decoder. It should open in just a few minutes...

OMEGA *(Off mic, calling)* Sentia... Sentia...

SENTIA I" m in here .....

DOCTOR Shhh!

OMEGA *(Off mic)* Sentia... where are you? It is I, Omega... I just want to apologise to you...

SENTIA Why are-

DOCTOR Shhh!

SENTIA *(Gently)* There" s no cause for alarm, sir... The man out there in the corridor is just one of

our actors hired to give our centre an authentic historical flavour...

DOCTOR I don" t think he" d be very pleased to hear you say that...

SENTIA Could I interest you in a souvenir of your stay. How about our Talking Omega? Says four simple phrases.

DOCTOR That many? Sounds like the Omega I used to know. Not today, thank you...

SENTIA It" s very well made. All you have to do to activate it...

DOCTOR Sentia, I really wouldn" t...

SENTIA ... is to pick it up. Like so...

OMEGA *(Too loud, tinny and squeaky)* I, Omega, will have my revenge!

OMEGA Doctor!!!

FX: Clatter as he pushes the shelves and they go flying. A hundred tiny OMEGAs saying four different phrases at once – 'I, Omega, will have my revenge!', 'Welcome to my world of anti-matter!', 'I was betrayed by my brother Time Lords!' and 'Release the Hand of Omega!'.

OMEGA Doctor, so there you are, cowering in the dirt like your Time Lord brothers!

DOCTOR Omega, I need to talk to you. It" s quite important.

OMEGA Betrayer! Betray me, like Rassilon, like Vandekyrian!

DOCTOR Vandekyrian didn" t do anything! Listen to me!

OMEGA (As *DOCTOR)* Doctor, we must join our minds! We must be one! (*DOCTOR)* You must help me! *(OMEGA)* Help me! *(DOCTOR)* Help me! *(OMEGA)* You betrayed me, Doctor *(DOCTOR)* You betrayed me!

FX: Bleep. The Prydonian's Pantry door opens.

OMEGA What is happening?

SENTIA Excuse me, sir, if you can step to one side we can let the passengers out of the Prydonian pantry.

OLDIES *(All saying 'Omega', 'It is Omega', ragged, disconnected)}!*

OMEGA What is this?

OLDIES *(Saying various phrases such as)* You must stop this folly! You must mend your murderous ways! Desist from your murderous folly! Murderous guiltless beast! Desist from your dark and shadowy path! I will stop you! *(Ending with a chorus of) I am Vandekyrian Conscience of the universe!*

OMEGA No! Get away! Get away from me! Leave me alone!

FX: Pursued by the old biddies, OMEGA roars away.

DOCTOR They can really bash those crutches around, can" t they? That handbag fetched him quite a nasty wallop. I don" t think it was just; knitting in there...

SENTIA My passengers appear distressed. Perhaps they need refreshment...

DOCTOR They" ve been affected by this sector of space... I can only hope it" s not permanent... Sentia... Stewardess... Can you hear me... We" re going to evacuate your passengers... I think there is a way to get them off this ship... Unfortunately... Go back to the TARDIS and tell Daland what I" m about to do and tell him to get ready to operate the doors when I shout...

SCENE 61: HERITAGE CENTRE.

FX: Babble of OLDIES: 'Where is Omega?', 'We must seek him out', 'Pay for the blood on his hands' and 'His black deeds shroud us all'.

DOCTOR Hello, ladies and gentlemen. As you can see, I am Omega.

FX: Muttering of 'Omega', 'It's Omega'.

DOCTOR I" m just about to perform my dark and heinous act, and stain my hands with the blood of innocents. You could stop me, of course, but then again you" ll have to catch me first...

SCENE 62: TARDIS.

DALAND Here he comes... being chased by fifty old ladies screaming their heads off. Who" d be famous, eh?

FX: TARDIS door opens. Old biddies screaming (off).

DOCTOR *(Off mic, yelling as he runs')* Get behind the doors! Get behind the doors!
Old biddies screaming into TARDIS, past them and into the rest of the ship.

DOCTOR *(Out of breath)* Get the internal doors shut! Get them shut! *(FX: Slam. Lock)* Activate the palm lock - there... that should hold them...

DALAND Good idea of yours, pretending to be Omega, but next time, get a few tips from someone who" s perfected his performance...

DOCTOR *(Acidly)* Thanks for the advice. How" s Sentia?

DALAND Weird. Distant. Like nothing" s happening...

DOCTOR Sentia, can you hear me...?

SENTIA Of course I can, Omega, you" re right. I shouldn" t have doubted you. It was a terrible thing
you did, killing all those creatures. I can see that now... I can see it... A terrible thing...

DOCTOR Sentia!

FX: Thud. Thud on the TARDIS door.

DALAND Doctor, on the scanner! We" ve got company. Your twin" s outside and I think he wants a family reunion.

DOCTOR Right, I" ll go and speak to him.

DALAND What?

SENTIA *(In an odd voice, with a strange intensity)* I want to come with you. I want to see Omega.

DOCTOR No, Sentia, I don" t think that" s a good idea. It" s something I have to do alone...

FX: Scanner operates.

DOCTOR Daland, watch me on the scanner. If anything happens to me, just press this button and the TARDIS will take you off the ship.

DALAND This is about the Scintillans, isn" t it?

DOCTOR Yes. Yes, it" s about the Scintillans.

DALAND What about them?

DOCTOR Daland, even when you have the whole of time and space to lose yourself in, sometimes
the past has a habit of catching up with you. I have to talk to him. I still owe him that much.

FX: TARDIS door opens.

SCENE 63: *EURYDICE.* OUTSIDE TARDIS.

DOCTOR Omega...

OMEGA Doctor, I have a terrible guilt. It burns like a lighted candle in the dark. When I shut my eyes it still makes a mark on my eyelids. *(DOCTOR)* But I am strong. The end justifies the means. It has to.

Why then do I feel such pain?

DOCTOR You shouldn" t be guilty, Omega. You really shouldn" t. You" re a victim of circumstance. You" ve *always* been a victim of circumstance...

OMEGA Spare me your twittering conscience platitudes. (*DOCTOR*) All my life I have listened to spineless (*OMEGA*) insects like you and Vandekyrian.

DOCTOR Vandekyrian didn" t do anything! You have to listen to me!

OMEGA No, he didn" t do anything... I did. I killed them all.

SCENE 64: *EURYDICE.*

FX: Dreamlike, back on OMEGA'S ship.

TIME LORD My Lord, the engines have failed. We" re trapped in the gravitational field of the black hole.

OMEGA Then restart the engines, you fool!

TIME LORD It" s impossible, Lord. There are impurities in the fusion mix. The engines are completely dead!

OMEGA Impurities in the fusion mix! Well, well, well, Vandekyrian... You had a hand in my downfall after all...

FX: OMEGA'S laughs echo and die.

SCENE 65: *EURYDICE.*

OMEGA I killed them all... I deserved my exile, Doctor.

DOCTOR Because of the Scintillans? Because of how you murdered them in the name of scientific progress? How you murdered Vandekyrian I when he tried to stop you... It" s a very sad and tragic story. If it were true.

OMEGA What are you saying?

DOCTOR You made it up. You didn" t kill the Scintillans. You" ve created a fiction, a story in your mind to explain away what Vandekyrian did to you...

OMEGA I don" t... understand...

DOCTOR You didn" t kill the Scintillans. It was me. I killed them!

OMEGA You? *You?* You" re lying...

DOCTOR Listen to me. There was a Lurman colony just outside the Stegoran asteroid belt. I arrived

there whilst they were being attacked by a band of Deradrenim Pirates. The Lurmans asked me to help them.

OMEGA Lies!

DOCTOR (*Charges on, almost gabbling)* The Deradrenim control their ships and weaponry using a form of telepathy, so I made a dampening forcefield to stop their equipment functioning... Unfortunately what I didn" t know was that the asteroid belt was also home to the Scintillans... They were beings of pure thought, Omega....

OMEGA You" re just telling me a story...

DOCTOR No...

OMEGA ...telling me a story designed to make me feel better...-

DOCTOR No... I wish I wasn" t...

OMEGA *(Laughs himself hysterical, then collapses in a fit of hoarse giggles)*

DOCTOR (*Almost annoyed at being laughed at*) I made a terrible mistake. They were completely
destroyed.

SCENE 66: TARDIS.

DOCTOR (On *scanner*) You must have taken my memories and made them your own, woven it into a story of what happened on *Eurydice* all that time ago...

DALAND So, it was the Doctor... He did it all along. Poor old Omega was completely blameless. Eh, Sentia, perhaps he is a hero after all. Sentia? Sentia? Where" s she gone? Oh, no, I didn" t shut the door.

Oh, God... The remote activator. Where is it?

SCENE 67: *EURYDICE.*

OMEGA *(Finally able to speak through the giggles')* Yes, I must *have done... So what really happened to me, Doctor? What happened to us all those centuries ago! Please tell me! You have me in suspense!*

DOCTOR I don" t know what happened. Maybe you were betrayed by Rassilon, maybe Vandekyrian was out to sabotage the ship. I don" t know! Probably the most likely explanation is Vandekyrian just went mad and imagined it all, like everyone else seems to when they enter this part of space.

OMEGA Why would I construct such a fiction for myself? Why would I want to believe I committed genocide?

DOCTOR You tell me... Perhaps you wanted to. Perhaps you can" t bear to think your exile was a result of a stupid mistake, a result of one man" s delusions.

OMEGA *(Starts chuckling again)* Yes, you" re right, Doctor. Perhaps I prefer myself as a monster. Better to shape history like a statue than j to be crushed by the ebonite. Better to shape the universe than to be one y of history" s victims. But then, tell me, Doctor... why do I feel tom apart by the guilt that *you* should be feeling?

DOCTOR But I do! Of course, I feel it very deeply. Their
deaths will Stay with me forever!

OMEGA Oh, not like this... Not like this... You should be on your knees screaming for the universe to forgive you. I must have spent too long from the harsh realities of this

life" s existence... For all my reputation as a warlord, a tyrant, a megalomaniac... I am a fragile flower compared to you... Who is the monster here, Doctor? Tell me that!

FX: Chime of tour shuttle. Tannoy.

SENTIA *(On Tannoy. In manner of commentary in Part One, but more brittle and strained)* Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you" ve enjoyed j our little interactive presentation, I hope you" ve learned a little bit about Omega and his world. I know I certainly have.

OMEGA Sentia...?

DOCTOR Oh, no...

SENTIA ...And I" d like to inform our passengers that we will shortly be reaching the climax of the tour... We" re going to go through a dimensional rift which was the actual place where Omega was trapped for all those thousands of years... *(Weakly)* „Oooh..." Crossing the event horizon and entering a completely different universe... Just in the same way Omega did in his quest to travel in time...

OMEGA Sentia, is that you...?

SENTIA ...Of course, we don" t like going into history, we much prefer Jolly Chronolidays to bring history to us, don" t we?

OMEGA Sentia! *No!!!*

FX: Throb of engines.

SCENE 68: TARDIS.

DALAND Doctor, it" s Sentia.

DOCTOR I know it is. The engines have been activated. We" re going in... So we make a choice. We stay, and jeopardise thirty lives, or stay and destroy three.

DALAND Oh. Not much of a choice, is it?

DOCTOR These are choices I have to make all the time. Sometimes I make the right one, sometimes...

SCENE 69: SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

FX: Door opens.

OMEGA (Out *of breath)* Sentia... (*DOCTOR*) You" re taking us into the event horizon... (*OMEGA/DOCTOR)* What are you doing, Sentia?

SENTIA Sentia? Who is Sentia? I am not Sentia...

OMEGA But you...are...

SENTIA *(Snarls) I am Vandekyrian! Conscience of the universe!!!*

FX: Bleep. Engines roar.

SCENE 70: TARDIS.

DALAND This is the switch, right?

DOCTOR Daland.

DALAND Come off it, Doctor, we" re not going to survive through there. None of us will.

DOCTOR Fine. I" ll do it.

DALAND No, Doctor. I" ll do it. Let someone else take some responsibility for a change. Lord knows it" s about time I did.

SCENE 71: SHUTTLE. COCKPIT.

FX: TARDIS materialisation.

SENTIA Goodbye Omegaaaaa! *(Screams, her distorting and echoing round OMEGA)*

OMEGA Sentia, no. No!!! No!!! No!!! No!!! *(His 'No' gets angrier more anguished, more echoey, until it is indistinguishable from a loud roar)*

FX: The engines get louder until their noise swallows up both OMEGA and SENTIA.

SCENE 78: TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM.

DALAND *(Hushed)* Well?

DOCTOR All gone. *Eurydice.* Heritage Centre. Tour shuttle… Omega… He" s gone.

DALAND Is he dead?

DOCTOR *(Hushed)* Omega doesn" t die easily… And the tragedy is, he doesn" t live easily either…

DALAND Do you think his plan worked?

DOCTOR If it did, he" s on his own again. If it didn" t, he" ll be with me for all eternity. I" m not sure which fate I" d wish on him.

DALAND This is terrible… I" m out of a job now. (Beat) Sorry. Told you I was shallow…

FX: Rather sophisticated. TARDIS sound.

GLINDA (*Voice slowly resolving out of TARDIS sound)* Well, this isn" t very good, is it? You call this a time machine? Where" s the nice oak panelling and the brass fittings, that" s how a proper time machine should look. This doesn" t look anywhere near as impressive as the Chronopodules made by the temporal monks in the catacombs of Sensoterrian Major… And they" re rubbishhhhhhhhhh.

FX: GLINDA's 'rubbish' turns into the futuristic hiss of a door opening.

MAVEN (*Exiting GLINDA)* I" m sorry about that. She" s very efficient, but her personality isn" t always the most agreeable… I suppose your old machine leads you quite a merry dance as well, eh, Doctor?

DOCTOR We have our moments. What are you doing here?

MAVEN I" m from the Celestial Preservation Agency, Doctor.

DOCTOR Never heard of you.

MAVEN Hardly surprising, Doctor, we" re from your future. As our name implies it" s our job to make sure the pattern of history remains intact.

DOCTOR How very commendable, but I don" t see anything here that affects recorded history. And isn" t it forbidden for Time Lords to dip into their own history?

MAVEN We also look after the *perception* of recorded history, Doctor. Sometimes it" s as important as history itself. We look on the past very differently now. We like to keep it... under control.

DOCTOR Really? How very uninteresting.

DALAND Sorry, you" re a Time Lord? And that old dear" s a TARDIS... So all that stuff... deaf-as-a-post

MAVEN Yes, it was all pretend. And yes, Mr. Daland, I did hear you mutter the words „crumbling antique" , „scrofulous harridan" and „cloth-eared fossil" . You" re very lucky I wasn" t a genuine passenger...

DOCTOR Much as I enjoy chit-chatting here with you, can I ask what you" re doing here? Apart from getting in the way, of course.

MAVEN My mission is to make sure a certain hero" s reputation remained intact.

DOCTOR Well I" m glad you lot have found something useful to do for a change. You realise that nothing was Omega" s fault here. He was completely blameless.

GLINDA Oh, you silly man. We" re not here about Omega, he" s a complete joke in our time. We" re here about you.

DOCTOR Me?

MAVEN You" re a great hero now. Your name will be a rallying cry for our people during dark times in your future. We can" t have it bandied around that you committed genocide by *accident.* And that incident subsequently caused another Time Lord to go insane with *your* guilt and go on a murderous rampage. Think of the scandal! So we came here to make sure that this unpleasant episode doesn" t besmirch your reputation.

DOCTOR And how would it do that?

MAVEN Through the only survivor, of course. Mr. Daland here.

DALAND Me?

MAVEN He" s the only person who knows what you did, because, you didn" t tell the Lurmans did you? *(Tuts)* Our enemies could pluck him out of time, interrogate him, and make you look a right nasty piece of work, and that would never do. We have tried to mindwipe him, but it doesn" t seem to work. Probably a thick skull as well as a thick skin.

DOCTOR Well, that would account for him not being sent mad by this area of space.

MAVEN So we" re going to take him with us.

DALAND Hey, wait a minute! No, no, no! You" ve got a life to lead, I" ve got -

MAVEN Nothing, Mr. Daland. Just a tiny habiflat and an unwashed duvet.

DALAND Oh, yeah...

MAVEN Let me tell you what we are offering. You see, we have interactive museums, too. In fact, there" s one right in the centre of the Capitol devoted entirely to the heroic exploits of the Doctor here. We need someone like you to... to communicate those deeds in the first person...

DALAND You mean, I could play the Doctor? Marvellous! I can do that! *(Declamatory)* Hold! I am the great Doctor! Champion of Time! Defeater of the dreaded Omega! Can I wear a cloak?

DOCTOR Could I ask something of you?

MAVEN Anything for you, Doctor. It" s not often you get to work on a project with one of your heroes...

DOCTOR I" m just curious... This museum of yours... of me... How do you present this story of me?

MAVEN Just the same, really, a few tweaks here and there. Names changed to protect the innocent. Would you like to hear it?

DOCTOR No! Well... Yes, I suppose... Yes. When you" re hanging onto existence by your fingernails... The stories about your exploits are all you have left...

MAVEN All right. If you" re interested, I" ll tell you the story, and this is only because you asked, and only because it" s you. It" s the story of a very powerful and foolish Time Lord, who did a terrible thing, and of the heroic Time Lord, who discovered what he did, to his great horror. With me so far? Oh, before we start, could you do something for me? Just a little thing... I don" t suppose, Doctor... Could I have your autograph?

THE END